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David Foster Estes.

THE
History of Holden,

Massachusetts.

1684-1894.

BY DAVID FOSTER ESTES.

PUBLISHED BY THE TOWN.

WORCESTER, MASS. :
PRESS OF C. F. LAWRENCE & CO., 112 FRONT STREET.

1894

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PREFACE.

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77-60
The preparation of this history was undertaken only at the request of the citizens of Holden. After unforeseen delays, some of which are to be expected in connection with every such work, while others have grown out of removal and distance, it is now submitted to those at whose invitation it was prepared. In size and scope, it far exceeds the very modest bounds at first intended, and the labor and care required have increased still more beyond expectation.

Even with the present size, it should of course be understood that it has still been necessary to select what has been told, out of more which remains untold. It is also very possible that traditions and information have sometimes been misleading, as they certainly are often conflicting. Whatever omissions and errors shall be found, will be in spite of patient and unprejudiced painstaking.

78-10
The History of Holden, prepared half a century ago, by Samuel C. Damon, D. D., has been incorporated into this work. The narrative portion of that work forms the second chapter of this history, and the helpfulness of the supplementary matter in that book and of his later collections is here gratefully acknowledged.

The American Antiquarian Society, through its Librarian, Mr. E. M. Barton, put all its valuable materials at the service of this work. Thanks are also due to many citizens of Holden, too many to mention by name, for the valuable information freely furnished. In the chapter of personal notices, much of the matter has necessarily been furnished by relatives of those spoken of and by others interested.

The committee of the town on publication, arranged with Mr. Cyrus P. Phelps for the photographs of streets and buildings, and with Mr. T. W. Marion for the preparation of the photographs from which most of the other illustrations have been reproduced, and with Messrs. A. A. Beal & Co., of Boston, for the making of the plates.

For doing all the work in connection with the illustrations, for their judgment in relation to many points, and for their untiring attention to all the burdensome details connected with publication, especial gratitude from the town, as well as from the author, is due to this committee, Messrs. Waldo E. Austin, Charles E. Parker and Henry W. Warren.

THE AUTHOR.

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Scale 240 Rods to 1 Inch.

Scale 240 Rods to 1 Inch.





CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

LOCATION. — BOUNDARIES. — SURFACE. — NATURAL PRODUCTS.
— HILLS. — RIVERS. — VILLAGES.



HE Town of Holden is situated in Worcester County, Massachusetts, about forty miles from Boston, and immediately adjoining, on the south, Worcester, of which it was originally a part. Its shape is a slightly irregular parallelogram. In view of its form and place on the map, it has been said that "Holden lies like a diamond above the 'Heart of the Commonwealth'." Its four sides were originally straight and nearly equal, but land has been set off from its west side to Paxton and from its east side to West Boylston. Its present bounds are :

Beginning at the north-west angle, at a stake and stones in a swamp, westerly from George C. Bond's house, near present road to Rutland : thence north fifty-six degrees east, eight hundred and ninety-nine rods by Rutland line to a stone post at Princeton corner, near Quinapoxet Pond : thence north fifty-six degrees east, one thousand two hundred and four rods to Sterling line (making a straight line two thousand one hundred and three rods) : thence south twelve and one-half degrees east, six hundred and thirty rods by Sterling to a stone post on West Boylston : thence north seventy-one and one-half degrees west, one hundred and four rods by West Boylston to a stone post : thence south five degrees east, one thousand six hundred and fifty-two rods by West Boylston to a stake and stones on Charles E. Parker's farm at

Worcester line: thence south fifty-seven degrees west, one thousand five hundred and twenty-one rods by Worcester to a stone post at Paxton: thence by several small angles on the Paxton and Rutland lines to the first mentioned bound.

The total area of the township, according to the State Census of 1885, is nineteen thousand nine hundred and eighty-two acres,¹ of which three thousand four hundred and eighty-three and one-half are cultivated, eight thousand and thirty-eight and one-fourth are woodland, seven thousand five hundred and seventeen and one-half are permanent pasture, and nine hundred and forty-two and three-fourths are unimproved. "The soil is varied, in general of a gravelly texture, and not especially strong; though on many of the hills it is stronger and richer, rather damp and almost stiff in texture. "An area of fifty acres can scarcely be found containing a homogeneous soil or a plain surface."²

The natural forest growth consists of pine, oak, maple, cedar, hemlock, hornbeam, ash, chestnut, walnut, beech, and birch. Wild flowers abound. The May-flower or trailing arbutus and mountain laurel grow in special profusion.

From the only quarry which has been opened, building stone in a great variety of colors has been taken. It is supposed that the seams of the rock have been penetrated by gases of various compositions, so that the stone has been diversely and beautifully colored. Specimens of quartz and traces of gold and silver are also found in the same quarry.

There are at least a dozen hills or marked elevations in Holden. The most conspicuous is "Stone House" Hill, so called from the natural house formed by the projecting rocks. Indian relics have been found here, showing that the Indians observed and profited by the facilities for defence which it affords. It lies in the southern part of the town, overlooking the reservoir of the Worcester water-works, and rises to a height of one thousand one hundred feet. Its sides are rocky

¹ According to the Valuation, 1892, Holden contains 21,244³/₄ acres.

² Damon History of Holden, p. 126.

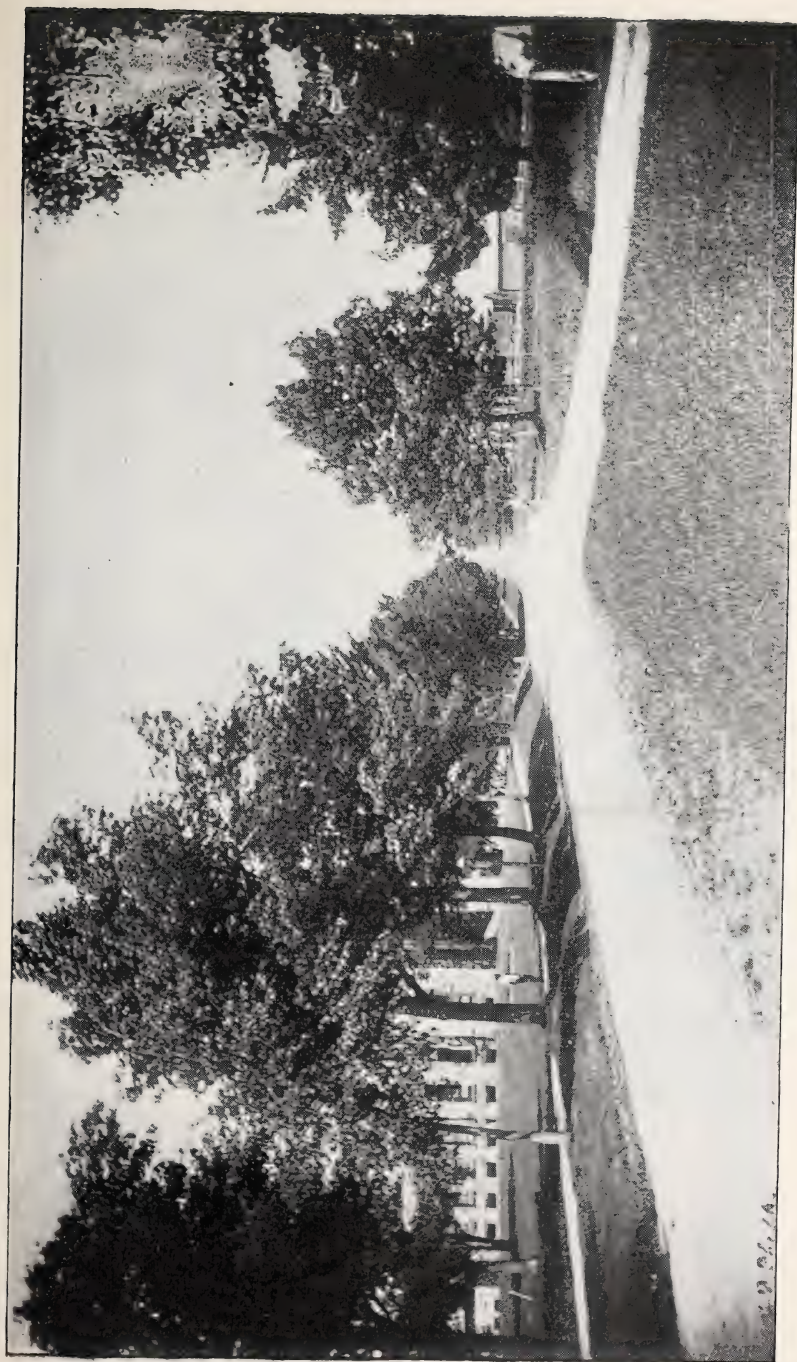
and precipitous, incapable of cultivation, so that it was long a resort for rattlesnakes, from which fact is derived the name by which it is often called, "Rattlesnake Hill".¹ The hill overlooking Eagleville, sometimes called Davis Hill, because the site of the famous tavern so long kept by landlord Paul Davis, and the hill near Sterling line, rise to a height of eight hundred feet or more. It so happens, however, that the chief elevations lie on the borders of the town, and that the summits are in other towns. This is the case with Pleasant Hill, bordering on Princeton; Malden Hill in West Boylston; Winter Hill in Worcester; Asknebumskit Hill in Paxton; Pine Hill, also in Paxton; and Pound Hill and the elevation opposite, in Rutland.

The principal stream in Holden is the Quinapoxet River, formed by two main branches, one of which rises in Quinapoxet Pond, a body of water lying chiefly in Princeton, and Muschopauge Pond in Rutland, and flows past North Woods and Quinapoxet villages; and the other of which rises in Asknebumskit Pond, in Paxton, and flows through Eagleville, Jefferson, and Lovellville, uniting with the former branch in the meadow just below the last named village. This stream is also fed by Trout Brook, coming in from the north, and by two brooks from the south, one from Bryantville and the other from Chaffinville. The Quinapoxet River flows into the Nashua River, which in turn empties into the Merrimac. Tatnuck Brook, in the southern part of the town, flows through Worcester into the Blackstone. The city of Worcester has erected reservoirs along this stream and controls the valley as a part of its water supply. The waters of a single meadow in the southern part of the town are drained partly into the Merrimac, partly into the Blackstone.

There are several villages in town which have received special designations, in some cases more than one. The name Holden belongs pre-eminently to the old central village, some-

¹ .. March 3d, 1745/6. Voted that there be payd for each Rattlesnak that Shall be killed in ye Town at their Dens & also at Stone house hill so called in Holdin Sixpence last Emission bills of Credit upon ye Taile being produced to ye Town at the Town meeting." Worcester Town Records.

times called the "Center". Jefferson (earlier Jeffersonville) now includes Eagleville, often familiarly called "Brick City" on account of a brick house which was long the only brick building in town. Quinapoxet village and post-office lies at the distance of perhaps half a mile from the railroad station of that name, between, lying the smaller village which bears the names of Lovellville and Centerville. Quinapoxet is often colloquially styled "French Woods", on account of the large tract of woodland in the neighborhood, at one time owned by citizens of France. Unionville lies to the south, and nearer the center the town. The little village in the northern part of the town claims the name of Ruralville, though it is usually spoken of as "North Woods", a name which the railroad station bears. The railroad stations toward Worcester from the Center are Dawsons and Chaffins, Dawsonville and Chaffinville lying a little way respectively to the west and to the east of the track. Bryantville lies close to the east of the Dawsons station.



CENTER, LOOKING NORTH FROM THE COMMON.

CHAPTER II.

THE DAMON HISTORY, 1667-1800.

RECORDS OF FIRST MEETING.—REPORT OF COMMITTEE, 1668.
—PURCHASE FROM THE INDIANS.—FIRST SETTLEMENT.—
INCORPORATION.—HON. SAMUEL HOLDEN.—FIRST TOWN
BUSINESS.—REV. JOSEPH DAVIS.—FIRST SETTLERS.—
FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR.—EARTHQUAKE.—RESOLU-
TIONS.—THE REVOLUTION.—PRICES.—EFFECTS OF REV-
OLUTIONARY WAR.—EVENTS TILL 1800.



HE history of the Town of Holden, down to the year 1800, may best be given in the form which it received from Rev. Samuel C. Damon, D. D., in his Centennial Historical Address, delivered May 4th, 1841, and published under the title "THE HISTORY OF HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS, 1667-1841," which is as follows:¹

"This day completes the first century since the town of Holden was organized agreeably to the Provincial Statutes of Massachusetts Bay. The records of that event, which we have assembled to commemorate, have been carefully preserved upon the town books. They read as follows :—

"Att an annueal meeting in Holden on monday y^e forth of may
Anno 1741

"Mr Simon Davis Chose modderator for s^d meeting

¹ The whole address of Dr. Damon is carefully reprinted, both for its own merit and because of the interest which for fifty years it has had for the people of Holden. In typography it is conformed to the usage of to-day and to the rest of this work, and quotations and references have been scrupulously verified. Notes, dates, and other matter, which have been added, are put in brackets.

- "Simon Davis John Biglo and Cyprian Stevens Chose Seelect men
- "Cyprian Stevens Chose Town Clark—Sworn
- "Jonathan Lovel Chose Constable for the East end—Sworn
- "James Smith Chose Constable for the west end—Sworn
- "Samuel Clark Samuel Pairce and Samuel Haywood Chose Assessors—Sworn
- "William Nickels Chose Town Treasurer—Sworn
- "Abraham Neuton Chose Tything man—Sworn
- "James Gray Jotham Biglo and David Brown Chose fence vewers—Sworn
- "Jotham Biglo Chose Clark of the marckit—Sworn
- "James Gray and Samuel Bruse Chose hog Reaffs—Sworn
- "Joseph Woolley and Abraham Neuton—Chose field drivers—Sworn
- "Samuel Haywood Chose Sealer of Leather—Sworn
- "James Caldwell and John Child Chose dear Reafs—Sworn
- "John Biglo and Joseph Hubbard Chose Suruairs of hyways—Sworn
- "Simon Davis Chose Grandiurryman—"¹

"In celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of a day, the records of which have now been read, my fellow citizens, we follow the promptings of principles deeply implanted in our natures. It is fit and proper to exhibit a becoming and grateful respect for the memory of that generation of men, who, clearing the forests, made their homes upon the hills and in the valleys of our town.

"The duty devolving upon me, by accepting the invitation from the Committee of Arrangements to prepare an address for this occasion, I shall endeavor to discharge by narrating the history of Holden, from the period when authentic records commence, down to the close of the eighteenth century, concluding with an allusion to a few prominent events in the present century.

"The earliest authentic accounts, on record, which refer to the tract of land now embraced within the limits of the township of Holden, are co-eval with the history of Worcester.

¹ Town Records, vol. I, p. 2.

That town originally had its north and south *halves*. The General Court of Massachusetts, in May [15th], 1667, appointed a committee 'to take an exact viewe' of lands lying in the vicinity of Quinsigamond Pond, and being about midway between Boston and Springfield. Daniel Gookin, Edward Johnson, and Andrew Belcher, members of this committee, made the following report in October [24th], 1668 :

"At a Generall courtt held at Boston the 24th of october 1668
For a plantation at Quansikamud now called worcester

"Wee haue acording to the Courrts orrderr (heirvnto anexed) [viewed the] place therrin mentioned and find it to bee, about 12 miles from Marrlborrough nearre the Road to Springfeild, and that [it is] a ttract of very good Chestnut tree land, a large quantitie but [meadow] we find not so much, beecause a very considerable quantitie of [meadow] & vpland about fue thousand accerrs is laid out to parrticularr p[ersons] & confirmed by this courtt. . . . But a[s] notwithstanding wee conceue therre may bee enough medow forr a [small] plantation orr towne of about thirrtty families & if these farmes be anexed to it, it may supply about sixty families, Therreforre wee [deem] it expedient, That the honoured court wilbe pleased to rreserue it fo[r a] towne, being conueniently scituated & wel waterred with ponds & lieing nearre mid way beetwene Boston & Springfeild about one [day's] ioyrny from either, For the setling wherof wee do offerr vnto [the] court that which followeth

"1 : That therre bee a meet proportion of land granted & laid out [for a] towne in the best forme the place wil bearre about the [area] of eight miles squarre

.
"3 : That due carre be taken by the said comittee, that a good minister [of] God's word bee placed therre, as soone as may bee, that such people [as may] therre bee planted may not liue like lambs in a large place."¹

"This report was approved and accepted by the General Court. Another committee was appointed to carry its recommendations into execution. The history of this 'ttract of very good Chestnut tree land wel waterred with ponds

[¹ Records of the Proprietors of Worcester, p. 2.]

. about eight miles squarre
 & laid out in the best forme the place wil bearre',
 I shall endeavor to trace through a period of one hundred and
 thirty-two years, so far as its history refers to the original
 proprietorship and settlement of Holden.

"The persons who had obtained a grant of this tract of land from the General Court did not consider their title as valid until, by purchase, it had been secured to them by the Indians, the original proprietors of the soil. On the 13th of July, 1674, John, alias Horrawannonit, or Quiquonassett, Sagamore of Pakachoge, and Solomon, alias Woonaskochu, Sagamore of Tataessit, together with the consent of their kindred and people, conveyed by deed the above mentioned tract of land to Daniel Gookin of Cambridge, Daniel Henchman of Boston, and certain other persons, for and in consideration of £12 of lawful money, of New England currency, or in full value thereof in other specie, to be paid within three months after the date of the deed. The Indians received 'two coats and four yards of trading cloth valewed at twenty-six shillings', as a pledge that the money should be duly paid. Messrs. Gookin, Henchman and others, fully discharged their obligation to the Indians before the three months had expired, and came into possession of 'the broken up land and woodlands, woods, trees, rivers, brooks, ponds, swamps, meadows, mineralls, or any other thing or things whatsoever, lying and being within that tract of land, conteyn- ing eight miles square or the contents thereof, to be layd out by y^e s^d persons or their order in time convenient'.¹

"The district of country described in the first Indian deed, from which extracts have been made, embraced the entire townships of Worcester and Holden, before any portions were set off to form the towns of Auburn, Paxton or West Boylston.²

[¹ Damon History of Holden, Note A, p. 64.]

² "The plantation of Quinsigamond, as originally granted, and surveyed, extended nearly twelve miles from north to south, and six miles from east to west. It was designed to include within the boundaries established the same

“King Philip’s war, commencing A. D. 1675, in connection with other unpropitious events, retarded the rapid settlement of this part of the Massachusetts colony. This circumstance induced the General Court, at their session in October, 1682, to pass a vote rendering forfeit and lost the grant of this tract of land to Gookin and others, unless vigorous exertions were speedily adopted to advance its settlement.¹ The grantees were now urged to take immediate action to preserve their claims. It was found by estimation that about four hundred and eighty acres of good meadow land were contained within the limits of this grant. An agreement was made, at a meeting of the proprietors, April 24, 1682, to divide the whole township into as many lots as there were acres of meadow land: ‘two hundred for planters; eighty for public uses or specific appropriations, and the remaining two hundred to be laid out on the northern extremity, forming a division afterwards known as North Worcester, and subsequently rendered permanent by the incorporation of Holden’.²

“The dividing line between North and South Worcester was drawn during the year 1683 or 84. For a period of more than thirty years subsequent to this division, but meagre records have been preserved relating to the North half of Worcester. ‘For a time’, observes Lincoln, in his History of Worcester, ‘we lose sight of the town and its inhabitants. From 1686 to 1713 no record is preserved on the proprietary book of any transactions. Neither history nor tradition informs us of the labors, dangers and sufferings of the earlier planters. General Gookin, the early and faithful friend of the plantation, was called to the rewards of a long life, characterized by fervent piety, enlightened benevolence, incorruptible integrity, and the practice of every manly virtue, in March, 1687’.³ Captain Adam Winthrop was appointed to the office which had been so

quantity of land which would have been comprehended in a tract eight miles square. . . . As stated in the original plan, the north and south lines were 1920 rods each; the east line 3815; the west 3760.” Lincoln’s History of Worcester, p. 160.

¹ Lincoln’s History of Worcester, p. 30. ² *Ibid.*, p. 30. ³ *Ibid.*, p. 33.

ably filled by the untiring exertions of the much lamented Gookin. The Winthrop family of Boston owned extensive tracts of land in North and South Worcester.

"I can find no records which lead me to conclude that any settlements were made in Worcester North half previously to 1722. The solitude of the wilderness had remained unbroken, unless the occasional report of a huntsman's gun, or the shrill whoop of the Indian, echoing among the hills, aroused the timid deer or hungry wolf. Tradition reports that numbers of each species remained in this vicinity, long after the first settlers had made their homes in the wilderness. History as well as tradition describes an Indian path leading from Lancaster to Hadley, which passed through the north part of this town, near the farm now owned by Samuel W. Hubbard. Traces of this path I am told are still to be seen.

"One century had now elapsed, since the Pilgrims disembarked from the Mayflower, upon the shores of New England. It had been a century of labors, hardships, perils and wars, to the first settlers of the country. During this period, the colonies were continually increasing in population and importance. Every year witnessed new settlements in the wilderness. Hardy adventurers were carrying to the westward the outposts of civilization. The town of Worcester was incorporated June 14th, 1722.¹ In the month of October following, the proprietors of 'common and undivided lands' in the town of Worcester voted, 'that a Committee of five men be Chosen, to provide a surveyor forthwith to measure the meadows in in the North half part of the Township of Worcester'.² Although this vote was not then carried into execution, in consequence of certain troubles in South Worcester, yet I deem it worthy of special notice, because from this date — the last Wednesday of October, 1722, — authentic records of this township have been carefully preserved.

"An incident occurred about this period — spring of 1723 — which led, as I suppose, to the forming of the first settlement

¹ Lincoln's History of Worcester, p. 50. ² Proprietors' Books, vol. I, p. 1.

in this town. Mr. Jonas Rice, a citizen of South Worcester, had discovered limestone upon the farm now known by the name of the 'Bullard Farm'. At a meeting of the proprietors, in March, 1723, a vote was passed granting 'Encouragement to the first finder of Lime Stones and Undertaker of Burning Lime for supplying the Town'. A committee was appointed to agree with Mr. Rice to burn lime upon the following conditions, viz :

"1. That the above s^d undertaker [Mr. Rice], to have a patten for 50 acres of Land to be allotted him, to Digg stones in for seven years and that he hath Liberty to Cut wood for the burning of Lime in any of the Common Land belonging to the proprietors, and that Every body Else be forbidd Digging Lime Stones, or Cutting Wood until the end of s^d term.

"2. That the Town be allowed two pence per Bushell for all Merchantable Lime

"3. That All the Inhabitants of the Town that may have Occasion, for their own Use in building to be used in the Town Shall Give Twelve pence per Bushell for it and no more.

"6. That the Undertaker be Oblig'd to goe upon the busieness with all speed and also to Supply the Inhabitants with Lime for their own Use when they want it as soon as may be with any Conveniency and that they be preferred before Any Other persons belonging to Other Towns."¹

"The lot of land, known upon the early records of the town as the Lime Lot, was sold, in the year 1759, to Mr. Anthony Clark.² The avails form part of the present school fund of the town. A settlement was made in the immediate neighborhood of the lime lot, which is supposed to be the FIRST SETTLEMENT in Holden. The remains of the lime kilns still appear about sixty rods south of Timothy Parker's house. That part of the town subsequently set off to form West Boylston, was very early settled by the Lovells.

"The records of the proprietors of the common and undivided lands in North and South Worcester, indicate that

¹ Proprietors' Books, vol. 1, pp. 3, 4. ² Town Records, vol. 1, p. 120.

vigorous exertions were made on their part to promote the rapid settlement of this portion of the township. They caused two surveys to be made, one in the autumn of 1723 and the other in the spring of 1724. The land having been thus surveyed, was divided into lots containing respectively sixty acres and one hundred acres, called first and second divisions. Those owning land in South Worcester were entitled to tracts of land in North Worcester agreeably to the following rules, viz. : A land-holder of forty acres in the South part was entitled to sixty acres of the first division and one hundred acres of the second division, 'and so proportionable to bigger and lesser lotts'. I would remark that persons were left to the choice of particular tracts, having first cast lots for priority of choice. The individual drawing No. 1 was allowed to *pitch* first in that division which contained sixty-acre lots, but last in the other division which contained one hundred-acre lots. The above tracts of land were all to be laid out 'Square or a Long Square'.¹

"No proprietor was more active and efficient in promoting the welfare of North Worcester, at this early period, than Colonel Adam Winthrop of Boston. As a mark of grateful respect to this gentleman for his good services, the proprietors passed the following vote :—'Coll. Adam Winthrop, for his good services Done for the Town of Worcester shall have the first pitch in the North half part of Worcester.'² For years subsequent to this event the interests of North Worcester profited by his wise counsels and judicious plans. He emphatically may be called a FATHER to the town.

"Near four thousand acres of land in North Worcester, were transferred from company stock to private individuals. Many of the proprietors of lands living in Boston and vicinity, their meetings were frequently held in that city. To facilitate settlements and raise the value of landed property, the proprietors appointed a committee to lay out four public roads, six rods wide, from the center of North Worcester, in such ways

¹ Proprietors' Books, vol. 1, p. 6. ² *Ibid.*, vol. 1, p. 7.

as would be most serviceable to the said half part and the towns adjoining.¹ The center of the township was then supposed to be about fifty or sixty rods north from the spot occupied by the house in which we are now assembled. These public roads were laid out previously to any portion of the township becoming the private property of individuals.

“From the consultation of ancient records, or inquiries among the most aged inhabitants, I have not been able to decide upon the precise years when settlements were made in different parts of the town. The number of inhabitants as early as 1733, was sufficient in their opinion to render desirable the establishment of public worship. In November of that year, James Thompson, who lived beyond the Warner Farm,² associated with sixteen others, petitioned the proprietors, praying that the land might be taxed to defray the expense which would arise from building a meeting-house and supporting a minister.³ This attempt was not successful, but Thompson and his fellow townsmen did not relax their efforts. The right of petition, that most reasonable of all rights, they continued to exercise, until their desires were fully gratified, when they obtained, in the year 1736, a vote from the proprietors to erect a house for public worship: ‘50 feet long; 40 wide; and 22 between the joyns’. At the same meeting of the proprietors, December, 1736, it was also voted that the meeting-house should be erected ‘about 65 rods southward from the place where four roads meet’. Capt. Benjamin Flagg, Lieut. Simon Davis, and Lieut. Joseph Hubbard, were appointed a committee to select the proper spot, ‘which shall be found most accommodable there forr to be fixed & staked out’.⁴

“The question may have arisen in the minds of some of this audience, what was the character of the preaching in those early times? A vote recorded on the 29th page, vol. 1. of the Proprietors’ Books, furnishes a most satisfactory answer.

¹ Proprietors’ Books, vol. 1, p. 6. [² Now, 1892, owned and occupied by Ira B. Maynard.] ³ Proprietors’ Books, vol. 1. p. 27. ⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1, p. 29.

December 29, 1736: 'Voted, That provision be made for supporting an orthodox ministerr to preach the Gospel in said north half fer three years next to come.'

"To defray the expenses which would necessarily arise from carrying the above votes into execution, a tax of 4*d.* per acre for the first year, 3*d.* per acre for the second year, and 2*d.* for the following year, was assessed upon all lands lying within the North half of Worcester.¹

"Reasons sufficiently strong induced the inhabitants of North Worcester to take proper measures for obtaining a separate act of incorporation, during the winter of 1739 and 1740. The 9th of January, 1740, has for a long period been the date assigned for the incorporation of the town. Without doubt, this date is too early by one year. The error probably arose from the practice then prevalent in the colonies and throughout Europe, of commencing the year on the 25th of March instead of the 1st of January. This practice went into disuse in the year 1752, by Act of Parliament; when New Style was adopted in the place of Old Style.

"A few events, worthy of notice, which took place previously to the Act of Incorporation being granted, I will proceed to narrate. At a general meeting of the citizens of North and South Worcester, held March 3d, 1740, it was voted, that the North half part of the township be set off a distinct and separate town, if an act to that effect could be obtained from the General Court.² On the 13th of May following, a petition, signed by twenty-five citizens of North Worcester, was forwarded to the General Court, praying to be set off a separate and distinct town. This petition was not granted. At the next meeting of the General Court — November of the same year — another petition was presented; and the petitioners were successful in obtaining An Act of Incorporation. The act passed the General Court, January 2d, and was signed by His Excellency, Governor Belcher, January 9th, 1741, and in the 14th year of the reign of George II.

¹ Proprietors' Books, vol. 1, p. 30. ² Worcester Town Records.

“When this act had passed the General Court, the North half of Worcester became a distinct and separate town, ‘by the name of Holden, with all the powers, privileges and immunities which the inhabitants of other towns in this province do or by right ought to enjoy’.

“The elevated character and beneficent exertions of the gentlemen in honor of whom this town received its name, merit, on the present occasion, a respectful and grateful notice.

“The Hon. Samuel Holden was a merchant of London. By his talents, integrity, and great capacity in mercantile affairs, he raised himself to a seat in Parliament, and became a leading Director of the Bank of England. At the time of his death, June 13th, 1740, his estate was valued at £80,000 sterling. Unfeigned piety and abounding charities added lustre and power to the other excellencies of his character. He was acknowledged to be at the head of the Dissenters in Great Britain, which circumstance probably induced him to direct his benevolent efforts to the colonies of New England. For more than forty years he was a correspondent of Dr. Benjamin Coleman of Boston, who preached a sermon on the occasion of his death being announced in this country. This sermon having been preached before the General Court of the Colony, an Order was passed, containing these words: ‘————— be a Committee to return the Thanks of this Court to the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Colman, for his sermon preach’d this Day (September 4th, 1740), before the Court, on Occasion of the death of the Hon. Samuel Holden, Esq., an eminent Friend and Benefactor to this Province.’ Mr. Holden furnished abundant proof of his desire to promote the cause of evangelical piety in this country. Dr. Coleman received from him thirty-nine sets of Baxter’s practical works in four massive folios, to be distributed among the churches of New England. The sum of his charities, at different times, amounted to £4,847. After his death, his widow and daughters emulated his noble example in the cause of benevolence. Holden Chapel, at Cambridge, was built by their generous donations. Numerous theological works were presented by them to the first Pastor of the church in Holden

and to his successors. I would conclude this notice of Mr. Holden by two short extracts from his letters. Alluding in one to the death of his only son, he remarks, 'I have had one son, and it pleased God early to take him from me; my comfort in the loss of him and my dear mother, was, that I had in each, one attachment less to earth, one argument more for heaven'. On another occasion he writes, 'I hope my treasure is in heaven, and would to God my heart were more there. Abstract from God and futurity, I would not accept of an eternity here in any other circumstances whatever'.

"By an order of the General Court, issued March 26th, 1741, John Bigelow, a principal inhabitant of Holden, was authorized to assemble the legal voters, at some convenient place, for the choice of town officers. The citizens assembled in obedience to that order on the 4th of May. The records of that meeting have already been rehearsed. Another meeting was legally called, after the expiration of two weeks, for the transaction of town affairs. Six votes are recorded on the town books as having been passed upon that occasion. To the honor of the citizens of Holden legally assembled in that meeting, the vote which was first passed deserves to be written in letters of gold: 'VOTED TO HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED IN TOWN'. The following two relate to the same subject. The fourth vote deserves to be recorded in characters of nearly equal brilliancy with the first: "VOTED TO HAVE A WRITING AND READING SCHOOL'. A public pound was the object of the fifth vote. Then followed the last vote passed upon the occasion, which related to a tax of £50 to be raised, 'to defray the charge of preaching and schooling'.¹

"One hundred years have passed, and, to the honor of our ancestors and their children, let the fact be published to the world, that the spirit which animated the citizens of Holden on that day still burns in the bosoms of their descendants. Good schools and good preaching have always received a liberal support from the inhabitants of this town.

¹ Town Records, vol. 1, p. 3.

"During the year 1741, a school of three months was maintained, commencing the 1st of September. No church, as yet, had been organized, or pastor settled. The town, by a unanimous vote, July 19th, 1742, invited the Rev. Joseph Davis to enter upon the work of the gospel ministry in town. A salary of £180 (old tenor, \$154.33) was voted to be annually paid to him, and the sum of £400 (old tenor, \$343) as a settlement donation. From the reply of Mr. Davis we learn the manner in which the settlement money was to be paid. After expressing his acceptance of the salary proposed, he proceeds to say :

"As to Settlement I accept the same as follows (1) I take the Lands in Said Holden Given to the first Settled Minister,¹ viz. one Hundred Acres of upland in Two pieces, each containing Fifty Acres and Four Acres of Meadow (So Called) at the Some of Two Hundred and fifteen pounds old Tender as appraised by order of the Town with the proprietors Concurrence, in part of my Settlement money (2) I depend on receiveing from the Town or propriety the Remaining Some of one hundred and Eighty five pounds Money (old Tender value) as Soon as the Same can be Collected."²

"The interesting exercises of Mr. Davis' ordination were performed December 22d, 1742. Four of the neighboring churches were represented by their pastors and delegates, viz. : Lancaster, Worcester, Shrewsbury, and Rutland. A church was regularly organized the same day, consisting of fourteen members. All were males. Nine were admitted by letter from other churches, and five upon profession.³

"The leading aims of the first settlers of Holden were now accomplished. They desired, for years, 'to be set off a distinct and separate town'; that desire was now fully gratified. To have the gospel ministry established in their midst, was the object of their most strenuous efforts and ardent prayers. Those efforts were now crowned with success, and those prayers literally answered. The records which have been

¹ Proprietors' Books, vol. 1, p. 15. ² Town Records, vol. 1, p. 9.

³ Church Records, vol. 1, pp. 27, 28.

preserved of that period most clearly indicate great harmony and peace among the citizens of Holden.

"We must now begin to trace the influence of commotions and wars in the Old World, in their effects upon the Colonies of the New, if a correct picture be exhibited of the most retired settlement in the wilderness.

"In 1744 England declared war against France. The colonists warmly espoused the cause of their fatherland. For a period of more than twenty-five years, previous to this date, the French had been actively employed in rendering more secure their possessions in North America. To protect their navigation and fisheries, they had built the town of Louisburg, on the island of Cape Breton, in Nova Scotia. Vast sums of money had there been expended. Forts had been erected and batteries planted. 'This place was deemed so strong and impregnable as to be called the Dunkirk of America.' Gov. Shirley of Massachusetts projected a plan for the reduction of this stronghold. The Province of Massachusetts was called upon to furnish more than three thousand men for this enterprise. Every town responded to the summons. We have the strongest circumstantial evidence that Holden furnished its quota of soldiers. Many of the muster rolls of the forces then raised having been destroyed, I am unable to rehearse the names of soldiers drafted from Holden. The enterprise was most successfully executed. The labors and dangers encountered by the colonists of New England, are well nigh incredible. When the news of this event reached Europe, 'the enterprise, patriotism, and firmness of the colonists were justly extolled'.¹

"In tracing the history of Holden, we are approaching the close of that generation, who may be called THE FIRST SETTLERS OF HOLDEN. With the most intense interest must our minds linger around this period of our history. The men of that day had difficulties and trials to overcome such as meet the first settlers in every new country. To clear the forests,

¹ Annals of America, by Abiel Holmes, D. D., 2d ed., vol. 2, p. 28.

erect houses, make roads, build bridges, maintain schools, and support the gospel ministry, were objects most cheerfully performed by our worthy ancestors. Barely to live was not the whole of life with them; it was their determination to live as honest men, good neighbors, honorable citizens, and accountable to God. From no source of information have I gathered facts which would lead to the conclusion, that the first settlers of Holden were inferior to that generation of men whose settlement in New England forms so important an epoch in history, and whose fame knows no other limits than the whole civilized world. It is not till 1753 that I discover any public misdemeanor to have been committed by a citizen of Holden, when two boys were fined one pound, seven shillings, for breaking glass in the meeting-house.¹

“A large proportion of the families first settling in Holden, could trace their ancestry back to the earlier settlers of New England. Many came from Concord, some from Lexington, and others from Watertown, Medfield and other towns in the eastern part of the Province. Through one of these families, His Excellency, the present Governor of Massachusetts, [Hon. John Davis] traces the line of his ancestors. I refer to the family of Mr. Simon Davis, moderator of the first town meeting. He was also chosen, at the same meeting, chairman of the board of Selectmen and Grand-juryman. During his life he sustained the most important offices in the power of his fellow townsmen to bestow, and died, February 16th, 1763, at the advanced age of eighty years.

“The charge of excessive vanity has, again and again, been cast upon the people of New England, for speaking in terms which betray warm admiration for the character of their ancestors. Those who would reproach us being the judges, there is acknowledged truth in the quaintly expressed sentiment of an old writer: ‘The Lord sifted the kingdoms of Europe to obtain

¹ Town Records, May 22, 1753. “Voted one pound seven shillings Now in the Treasurers hand, that he Recd of Isaac Lealand and Joseph Bush for their Shooting at the Meeting House be for mending the Glass and other Breaches in sd Meeting House,”

good seed wherewith to plant the sterile fields of New England.' (I quote from memory.)¹

"Allusion has already been made to the fact that wars among the nations of Europe affected the welfare of the American Colonies. The war known in history by the name of 'French and Indian War' furnishes melancholy evidence for the truth of this statement. 'The military records of those wars,' writes Governor Everett, 'as far as the Province of Massachusetts is concerned are still in existence. The original muster rolls are preserved in the State House at Boston. They prove that the people of Massachusetts, between the years 1755 and 1763, performed an amount of military service, probably never exacted of any other people, living under a government professing to be free. Not a village in Massachusetts, but sent its sons to lay their bones in the West Indies, in Nova Scotia, and the Canadian wilderness. Judge Minot states, that in the year 1757, one third part of the effective men of Massachusetts were in some way or other, in the field, and that the taxes imposed on real property in Boston, amounted to two thirds of the income.'²

"I have examined many of the old muster rolls and other records relating to this war, now safely deposited in our State archives. From those papers I have copied the names of such persons as engaged in the French and Indian war who were drafted from Holden: William Fisher, Richard Flagg, Samuel Boyd and Peter Nutten, enlisted into the company of Capt.

[¹ Gov. William Stoughton, Election Sermon, April 29th, 1668, p. 19. "God sifted a whole Nation that he might send choice Grain over into this Wilderness." Compare Longfellow, "Miles Standish,"

"God had sifted three kingdoms to find the wheat for the planting.
Then had sifted the wheat, as the living seed of a nation;
So say the chronicles old, and such is the faith of the people."]

[² "The military efforts of the colonies had indeed, from the first, been remarkable. It was calculated, near the commencement of the last century, that every fifth man in Massachusetts, capable of bearing arms, had been engaged in the service at one time. . . . The regiments of New England and New York, in this war, fought on Lake Ontario and Lake George, at Quebec, in Nova Scotia, in Martinico, Porto Bello and at the Havana." Everett's Orations and Speeches, 7th ed., vol. 1, pp. 391, 392.]

Benj. Flagg of Worcester, to strengthen the forces stationed at Lake George. Henry Rice, Job Harris, Samuel Estabrook, John Murphy, Jedediah Estabrook (son of Samuel Estabrook), Samuel Hubbard, Jr., Samuel Bigelow, John Woodward, Samuel Thompson, and Ebenezer Fletcher, enlisted into the company of Capt. John Chandler, for the invasion of Canada. In an expedition to Crown Point, the following persons served under Capt. Fletcher of Rutland, viz.: Ebenezer Fletcher, 1st Lieut., Ebenezer Fletcher, Jr., 2d Lieut., Samuel Estabrook and son, Job Harris, Samuel Hubbard and John Murphy, Privates. There can be no doubt, that many other soldiers from Holden engaged in this war, whose names cannot now be given, because until within a few years, no pains were taken to preserve the muster rolls of those early wars.

“Our fathers were willing to expose their lives and expend their fortunes for the welfare of the mother country. The American Colonists were as loyal subjects of the Crown of England, as those personally serving in the palace of King George III. The French and Indian war, from this circumstance, has not inappropriately been styled ‘the school of the Revolution’.¹ Washington distinguished himself as a brave commander in this war, and from the English learned the science of military tactics. During that war, many of his officers and private soldiers became intimately acquainted with the practical duties of the camp and field. From the point of observation which we occupy, it most readily appears how important was that service to prepare those men for the stations of trust and responsibility, which they were called to occupy at a subsequent period of their lives.

“Before proceeding to speak of events in the revolutionary war as they affected the progress of affairs in Holden, I shall notice some records preserved among our church and town papers. In 1765, Daniel Henchman, Esq., of Boston gave to the town the spot of land occupied for the first burying ground,

[¹“The Seven Years War, the School of the Revolution.” Oration delivered at Worcester, July 4th, 1833, by Edward Everett. *Orations and Speeches*, vol. 1, pp. 377-403.]

measuring twelve rods long, and ten rods broad.¹ Additions have since been made increasing the area to its present dimensions. The 20th of August, 1761, was observed as a day of fasting and prayer by reason of a severe drought.² During the early history of the town frequent mention is made that public schools were kept at houses of private persons. In 1752, a school was kept three months at Mr. Joseph Hubbard's house; another school, the same year, at Lieut. Cyprian Stevens' house. During the following year, schools were kept in other parts of the town, three months at the center; three months at Jonathan Lovell's house; and three months at Lieut. Richard Flagg's house. In 1754, it was voted, in town meeting, that thirteen pounds, six shillings and eight pence, be appropriated for the erection of a school house at the center of the town. I have not been able to learn that this vote was carried into execution. Tradition reports that the first school house was erected in the east part of the town, in the neighborhood of the Bullard place. The sum annually appropriated for schools gradually increased from year to year. In 1752, the sum of eleven pounds, twelve shillings was raised for six months' schooling; and in 1762 the sum had increased to thirty pounds including the interest upon the *lime lot*.³

"The connection of the Rev. Mr. Davis, as pastor of the church in Holden, continued until January, 1773; when he was dismissed at his own request. From a printed sermon of Mr. Davis', I have gathered some statistics relating to the history of this town, worthy of preservation, as they were collected by one so intimately acquainted with the first settlers of Holden. I would remark that Mr. Davis preached this sermon January 2d, 1793, fifty years having passed since his introduction to the work of the gospel ministry. 'At first', writes Mr. Davis, 'your increase was slow; little alteration for the term of five years; but, afterward, the increase much more; for, at the end of ten years, your number of families was fifty-five. For the second ten years, the increase in

¹ Deed, County Records. ² Church Records, p. 36. ³ Town Records.

families was small, only ten. The last ten years of my ministry, the increase was forty-one. The whole number, at my dismissal, about one hundred and six families. . . . There had been six hundred and forty-two births; about three hundred and thirty were males, and about three hundred and ten were females. . . . There have died two hundred and fourteen persons; about eighty under the age of two years; and more than half under the age of five. The number of the baptized, by me, about five hundred and twenty . . . At the end of twenty years, the church consisted of about seventy-five members, and when I was dismissed, of eighty-six; thirty-eight males; forty-eight females. . . . There was a remarkable sickness about seven years after my settlement: Twenty-two persons died. And about six years after, the year after the great earthquake, a raging distemper carried off about forty-five persons in a short time, mostly younger persons and children'.¹

"The great earthquake, to which allusion is made in the above extract, occurred November 15th, 1755. The shock was felt in various parts of North America. In Boston, 'one hundred chimnies were in a manner levelled with the roofs of the houses. Many clocks were stopped'. In New Haven, Ct., 'the ground in many places seemed to rise like the waves of the sea. The motion of this earthquake was undulatory. Its course was nearly from northwest to southeast. Its extent was from Chesapeake Bay, southwest, to Halifax, northeast, about eight hundred miles'.² The effects of this earthquake were most visibly apparent in that part of Holden, subsequently set off to form the town of West Boylston. The Rev. John Mellen, at that period pastor of the second church at Lancaster (now Sterling), has given a minute description of the place, as it then appeared. Several acres of land were sunk, in some places 'more than the height of a man'. Trees on each side of the breach were thrown in various directions 'and sometimes crossing each other overhead, at right angles, sometimes thrown

¹ Rev. Mr. Davis' Sermon, pp. 19-21, ² Holmes' Annals, vol. 2, p. 67.

up by the roots.' The old channel being blocked up, the water flows in an entirely new direction. The stump of a tree that happened to stand directly over the chasm, on the east, is divided into equal parts, one standing on the outside of the chasm, the other on the inside, but not opposite to each other — the half within the chasm being carried five feet forward towards the river. It is a remarkable fact that this earthquake occurred the same month and year with that terrible convulsion of the earth, which sunk a portion of Lisbon, the chief city of Portugal, containing a population of one hundred and fifty thousand, one-fifth part of whom suddenly perished. Every church and convent fell. Fires broke out, two hours after the shock, which continued to rage for three days, so that the city was completely desolated.

"The church in Holden remained without a pastor nearly two years after the dismissal of the Rev. Mr. Davis. December 21st, 1774, Mr. Joseph Avery, having received a call from the church and town, was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry.¹ His annual salary was established, sixty-six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence, lawful money (\$222.22); and the sum of one hundred and thirty-three pounds, six shillings and eight pence, lawful money (\$444.44), was voted as a settlement donation.

"Some prominent events of the Revolutionary war now claim our attention, if we would carefully trace the history of this town, during that most eventful period in our country's history. The first allusion to events which led to that war I find upon the records of the church in the hand-writing of the pastor. '1768. Octo. 12 Observed as a Day of Fasting & Prayer on account of the Aspects of divine Providence in our public Affairs'.² By consulting Provincial history, the cause is readily apparent why a day of fasting and prayer was observed. October 1st, numerous companies of British soldiers had been stationed in the city of Boston. 'The colonists felt disgusted and injured, but not overawed, by the presence of the obtruded soldiery.'³

¹ Church Records, vol. 1, p. 47. ² *Ibid.*, vol. 1, p. 42. ³ Holmes' Annals, vol. 2, pp. 158-9.

How truly characteristic of the genuine sons of the Puritans, was the conduct of the good people of this town, on the present occasion. 'The aspects of Divine Providence' in 'public affairs' betokening civil commotions, our fathers were ready to humble themselves before God. War might come. How accordant with the dictates of reason and the soundest principles of religion, to look for guidance and direction to a wise and benevolent God!

"A town meeting of the citizens of Boston was held November 2d, 1772. A large committee—James Otis, chairman—was appointed on the motion of Samuel Adams. This committee was instructed to state the rights of the colonists, and of this Province in particular, as men, as Christians, and as subjects; to communicate and publish the same to the several towns in this Province and to the World, as the sense of this town, with the infringements and violations thereof that have been, or from time to time may be made; also requesting of each town a free communication of their sentiments on the subject. The letter of correspondence to the several towns, closes with these words: 'Let us consider, brethren, we are struggling for our best birthrights and inheritance, which being infringed renders all blessings precarious in their enjoyment, and consequently trifling in their value. Let us disappoint the men, who are raising themselves on the ruin of this country. Let us convince every invader of our freedom, that we will be as free, as the Constitution our fathers recognized, will justify.'" A pamphlet, containing the resolutions of this meeting and the appeal of the committee was printed and extensively circulated through the colonies, but particularly in the towns in the Province of Massachusetts Bay. The public mind was aroused. The resolves of the Boston patriots were cordially responded to from the most retired villages in the Province. The citizens of Holden passed fourteen resolutions,² making known in the most unequivocal language, their sentiments. Listen to the resolutions, as exhibiting the spirit which animated the

¹ Holmes' Annals, vol. 2, p. 178. ² Town Records, vol. 1.

bosoms of our fathers, in those days which ‘tried men’s souls.’

“(1) Resolved that Liberty both Religious & Civil is a most Precious and Enestimable Gift of the Great & Glorious Creator of all things granted to all Rational Creatures: neither can any Person or Persons innocently give or Sell it away from himself any more than he can take it from another

“(2^{dly}) If any have been so unhappy as to Surrender their Liberty such Act of theirs Cannot induce any Moral Obligation of Servitude on them Personly Espically; if they were Enslaved by irresistible Power: surely then it Cannot reasonably bind their Successors in every future Generation

“(3^{dly}) That it is to us Equally manifest that no one Nation or State or Political Society has any Right to Rule or Command another Especially without the Consent of the Latter

“(4^{thly}) The People of New England have never given the People of Britain any Right of Jurisdiction over us Consequently we Deem it to be the most unwarrantable Usurpation & view it as an insufferable insult in the British Parliamant that they assume a Legislative Authority over the American Colonies

“(5^{thly}) We Chearfully Profess the most perfect Loyalty to the King as having an Essencial voice in our Charter Government

“(6^{thly}) We are Assured that no Political Community on Earth can truly Enjoy Liberty without Civil Government therefore Civil Government is an invaluable Divine Blessing & Anarchy is the greatest of Publick Evils one only Excepted that is a State of Compleat & Confirmed Tyranny

“(7^{thly}) And such Tyranny is evidently the Object of some very Resent Measures of the British Administration & Government Particularly these Mentioned to us in a Letter from our worthy friends the Citizens of Boston & the Project of Despotism and Arbitrary Government appears to be nearly Accomplished & Settled so that nothing but the Vigilance and Combined Effortts of this People under the Auspicious Providence of Heaven can save us from Abject Slavery and Total Ruin

“(8^{thly}) Therefore we are Compelled to Speak & Devulge our sober & very greivous Apprehensions and are willing all Mankind should know that we are far from acquiescing in the many Gross

Violations of our Just Rights too Conspicuous & Palpable now to Require a Particular Enumeration and Truly we should be Chargeable with very Criminal Silence if we did not Remonstrate against every glaring attempt of any Persons of what Rank or Denomenation so ever to bereave us of our Liberty

“(9^{thly}) Resolved that the Right of Kings (whether it be a humane or Divine right) is founded on the same Principles of Publick Liberty which we Assert & the Right of our present Sovereign George y^e 3 to the British Throne was Explicitly by Compact Derived from the same principle

“(10^{thly}) And therefore we must behold them as guilty of Treason against his sacred Majesty & his Illustrious House who are making Attempts to subvert the Liberties of his faithful subjects as nothing can be more Repugnant to y^e Constitution of England & of this Province than that George should be King of Slaves so if the Antiquated Doctrine of Passive Obedience and non Resistance should now Revive & move abroad & half the Nation were so blind and infatuate as to imbrace such a Deformed Monster the Throne must shake and tremble to the very Bases the Lord Almighty avert the horrid Catastrophy to prevent it our Prayers and Endeavours shall not be wanting

“(11^{thly}) In Publishing our Sentiments and Resolutions we are moved by Natural & Christian benevolence to the good People of Britain whose Prosperity is Dear to us as our own it is therefor our hearty Prayer that God would preserve them from the Depth of Political Lethergy and Mercifully Defend them from y^e Iron Fang of Tyranny as Slavery has ever been abhorrent to the Genius of Britain it must be peculiarly shameful & Painful to English men till we shall have Lost the Right Spirit of our truly worthy ancestors and forfeited the English name as we are far from Suspecting the People of Britain (our old Natural ally) of being Enimical to us our ardent Brotherly love to them is an Additional incitement to assert our own freedom it being very Certain that if Liberty Expires here it will not long survive there we are therefore ambitious of Transmitting our names to all Posterity as favoured instruments in the hand of God of having Preserved Britain from Distruction therefore we supplicate the Throne of Mercy that God would Excite his Peaple in Britain & America to a Reformation of Morals because as sin is the Reproach and Ruin of a People so Righteousness Exalteth a Nation to the Summet of Happiness and Glory

“(12^{thly}) Therefore Resolved that their is an intimate Connection between the Liberty & Virtue of any People if Liberty be gone Religion will infallibly Languish to Extinction

“(13^{thly}) We plead for Liberty because it is the Respectable Patroness of the Liberal Arts & Sciences this was doubtless the Judgment of our Pious and worthy Ancesters who Chose a wild Desart with Liberty Rather than the fruitful fields & beautiful Gardens of their Native Land with Slavery and who were in their first Settlement very Zealous to erect a Seminary of Learning as well as to build and Multiply Christian and Prodistant Churches we Desire to follow their noble Examples to promote in our Measure Learning & Liberty in Delightful and harmonious Union and would now recommend it to our Children and to their successors forever to be imitators of us and of our truly wise & Virtuous and Venerable Progenitors.

“(14^{thly}) We think it our Duty on this Occation on behalf of ourselves and our Dear Country to Express our Sincere Gratitude to the Respectable Gentlemen of Boston for the Light & Counsel they have presented to us in the Circular Letter and their many Generous Efforts in y^e Cause of Liberty and it is our Earnest Prayer to Almighty God that they may be animated still to Proceed and that they may Prosper according to the Desire of their hearts and Recieve the most Ample and Durable Reward

“And that the above Resolves be Recorded on the Town book of Records & that the Town Clerk give an attested Copy to s^d Committee to be transmitted to the Committee of Correspondence at Boston

JOHN CHILD JONA. WHEELER ANDREW SMITH JAMES DAVIS	}	<i>Committee.</i>
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“The above being put to Vote and passed in the Affirmative

JOHN CHILD *Moderator.*”

“The way was rapidly preparing for an open rupture between England and her American Colonies. The coercive measures of the British Parliament required the Colonists to acknowledge principles subversive of true liberty. Petitions and remonstrances failed to reconcile the parties. War came. ‘Dis-

perse, disperse, you rebels; throw down your arms and disperse,' were the words of Major Pitcairn, as he approached the sturdy yeomanry of Massachusetts, assembled upon the plains of Lexington. Then followed the discharge of muskets. Eight brave Americans fell. The shouts of an exulting foe, and the expiring groans of the dying, were harsh sounds in the ears of men whose grandsires were Puritans. They were notes of alarm to every genuine lover of liberty throughout the colonies. This town furnished a company of seventy men, ready to leave their homes, at the first alarm.

"The population of the town at that time, numbered about seven hundred and fifty. Nearly one tenth of the entire population was prepared to engage in actual service. During the progress of the war, drafts were made for soldiers from Holden to serve at various military stations in the Northern States. Wherever troubles existed, or dangers were apprehended, thither marched soldiers from this town. Some went to Rhode Island, others to New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The terms of service of individual soldiers in the common militia, when added, amount to seventy-four years, supposing it to have been performed by one man, at an expense to the town of £1,961-0s.-11d. No reference is made in this calculation to the soldiers in the regular continental army, under the immediate command of Washington. In this army twenty-five soldiers enlisted from Holden, for the term of three years, or during the war. Each one of these men received £20 or more as bounty money, at the time of their enlistment: So that during the year 1777, £763-0s.-12d., were paid from the town treasury to discharge the liabilities, which had been thus incurred, to enlist soldiers.

"It would be interesting, if time permitted, to narrate the history of each soldier, who went from Holden, to contend with the disciplined troops of England, upon the field of battle. I will allude to a few. Thomas Heard was the only person killed in actual service. He fell near Saratoga, N. Y., and his dead body was borne away by William Ebet. Moses Wheeler and Jeremiah Fuller died at Valley Forge, Penn., having suf-

fered most intensely from cold and hunger. David Potter deserted to the enemy, having previously been saved from the ignominy of a public execution, by the timely interposition of Lady Washington. The conduct of his brother James was far different. He was among the foremost to o'erleap the heights at Yorktown, causing thousands of the British soldiers to surrender, whilst their General, Lord Cornwallis, surrendered his sword into the hand of Washington.

"Capt. George Webb was the only commissioned officer, in the continental service from Holden. At the time of his enlistment he was not an inhabitant of the town. He came with his family to this place during the war. Capt. Webb was a fearless soldier, and an high spirited officer. Whenever an enterprise requiring bravery and skill, was to be undertaken, Washington and Lafayette knew Capt. Webb to be a man to their minds. I hold in my hand the original copy of a letter, addressed by General Lafayette, to Capt. Webb. I will read the first sentence: 'Dear Sir Your successful scarmish—Has afforded me the greatest pleasure, and I request you will receive yourself and present to your company My best thanks on the occasion.'" It was in the company of Capt. Webb, that Deborah Sampson,² an American young lady, served as a continental soldier,

[¹ The following is a copy of the letter :

"MILTON, May 15th, 1881.

"DEAR SIR Your successful scarmish—Has afforded me the greatest pleasures and I request you will receive yourself, and present to your company My best thanks on the occasion. Major Jicks is Requested to exert himself in finding out the position, size and number of long boat—Helen lie either about City point or in the Appamatox river—the taking of these boats is a more desirable object and would produce good effects of a very extensive nature. But I cannot give orders as the capture depends upon the uncertain situation of local circumstances Should you think it advisable to undertake precaution must be taken to have your retreat secured at all events. In case the enterprize is not executed to-night I wish you will return with your company in cool of the evening—and if tonight you have any object in view you will repair heare tomorrow with the boats. With the most sincere esteem,

"Yours LAFAYETTE."]

[² Deborah Sampson in the service bore the name of Robert Shurtleiff. See *The Female Review*: or *Memoir of An American Young Lady*. By a Citizen of Massachusetts. [Herman Mann] 1797. Reprinted in *Life of Deborah Sampson*. 1866.]

for nearly three years. She performed the duties of every station assigned to her, with punctual exactness, fidelity and honor.

“The hours of this day would not suffice, for me to rehearse an account of the many bloody battles, and hair-breadth escapes, to the recital of which most of this audience have listened when a Rice, a Rogers, a Potter, a Nash, or a Flagg would make himself the hero of his story whilst, perchance, he

‘Shoulder’d his crutch, and show’d how fields were won.’

“The citizens of Holden entered into a solemn covenant to sustain the committee, chosen to watch for the public safety, and voted that such persons as refused to unite with them should have their names published in the *Boston Gazette* as enemies of their country. The town, also, voted that every blacksmith, shoemaker, miller and housewright do not directly do or cause to be done any sort of business, in their respective occupations for any of those persons, who would not sign the covenant, which was to ‘be lodged at John Abbots, one month, for the Inhabitants of Holden to sign’.¹ Tradition reports that a Mr. Goulding, living in the south part, was so offended with this measure of the town, that he immediately commenced building the grist mill and saw mill now owned by Amos Howard, Jr.²

“This decided movement was not regarded as sufficient for the general good. To prevent monopoly upon such articles as were considered the necessities of life, the Selectmen, and Committee of Safety were empowered by an Act of the Provincial Congress to establish ultimum prices.

“The following³ is a List of Prices to a Number of Articles as agreed upon by the Selectmen & Committee of Safety &c of the Town of Holden agreeable to an Act of the great & General Court

¹ Town Records, vol. 2, p. 15—January 3d, 1775.

[² The site of this long since abandoned mill was about one-fourth of a mile below the present dam of the Worcester water works.]

³ Town Records, vol. 2, pp. 40, 41.

of the State of the Massachusetts Bay in new England to prevent Monopoly

“ Farming Labour from the Twentieth of June not to Exceed 3/ pr Day the rest of the year in the same proportion Wheat @ 6/ Bushel Rye @ 4/4 pr Bushel Indian Corn at 3/ pr Bushel Good Pork @ 4 pr Lb Salted Pork @ 7 ¼ pr Lb Oats @ 1/9 pr Bushell Barley @ 3/6 pr Bushel Good Grass fed Beef @ 2½ pr Lb first Rate of Stall fed Beef 3½ pr Lb Best Cheese @ 6 pr Lb Butter by the Firkin 8¼ pr Lb & by the Single Lb 9½ Spanish Potatoes in the Fall @ 1/1 pr Bushel in the Spring 1/6 B. Good well Dressed Flax @ 1/ pr Lb Tried Tallow @ 7 pr Lb ruff Tallow @ 5 Tow Cloth @ 2/3 pr y^d Woolen Cloth for Shirting Striped or Check 3/ pr y^d that is 7/8 wide Green Oak Wood D^d @ 5/ pr Cord Walnut D^o D^d @ 6/ pr Cord Charcoal @ 2½ pr Bushell D^d

“ Mutton & Lamb in the Winter @ 4 pr Lb in the sum^r @ 3 pr Lb Veal @ 3 pr Lb Best English Hay @ 2/ pr C:wt in the summer in Winter or out of the Barn 3/ Horse keeping over night @ 1/4 & Oxen @ 1/8 Oats @ 3 per Mess Lodging @ 3¼ pr night Potluck @ 8 pr Meal other Meals in proportion new England Flip @ 9 pr Mug Westindia Flip @ 11 pr Mug Horse Shoeing Steeled Toe & heel all around @ 6/ and all the rest of a Blacksmith work in the same Proportion Good Double Soaled Mens Shoes @ 7/4 all other Shoes in the same Proportion for making Mens Shoes & finding thread 2/10 for making other Shoes in the same Proportion Maids Wages pr week 2/8

“ To take in & spin Fillen @ 2 p skein for spinning 14 knots of Warp @ 4 for weaving Tow cloth yd wide @ ¾ pr y^d all other widths & qualities in the same Proportion for Boarding Common Men @ 4/8 pr week for Boarding common Weoman @ 2/ pr week

“ Best white Pine Merchantable Boards at the Mill Inch thick @ 48/ pr M Good Merchantable White Pine Barn Board @ 24/ pr M Yellow Pine Merchantable floor Board @ 30/ pr M Common closing Board at 21/4 pr M Merchantable Shingle @ 12/ pr M Merchantable Clapboards @ 66/8 pr M Sawed D^o @ 40/ pr M clean Flax seed @ 6/ pr B new Milk @ 2 pr quart Cyder @ the Mill @ 4/ pr B other seasons of the year in the same Proportion Clover Seed @ 10 pr Lb Foxtail @ 8 pr quart white Clover @ 1/ pr Lb Hogs Fat @ 6 pr Lb Hops @ 8 pr Lb Carpenters Labour from the first of May to

the Last of Sep^r @ $3/4$ p^r Day the rest of the year in y^e same Proportion Good Cyder Barrells with flat Hoops @ $3/4$ p^r Piece with round Hoops @ $3/$ And all the rest of Coopers work in the same proportion Good white Oak staves @ $21/4$ p^r M—Sawing @ $10/$ p^r M other sawing in the same proportion—for Oxen in the best Feed through the Summer @ $2/4$ p^r week a Cow @ $/9 \frac{1}{2}$ p^r week a saddle Horse @ $2/$ other Horses in the same proportion p^r week Sheep and Lambs @ $/2$ p^r week for Parstun Brick @ $15/$ p^r M Tobacco @ $/7$ p^r Lb Apples @ $/8$ p^r B Glass of N. E. rum @ 2 Coppers p^r Glass W India @ $/2$ per Glass Turnips @ $/8$ p^r B. Doctors Travel @ $/6$ p^r Mile out Shop Joiner to have $3/$ p^r piece Common Coloured Chairs with Bottom the rest of their work in the same proportion Peas @ $6/$ p^r B. Beans @ $6/$ p^r B

JOHN CHILD	} <i>Selectmen of Holden</i>
JONA RICE	
PAUL RAYMOND	
MOSES SMITH	
JAMES DAVIS	

DAVID FISK	} <i>Committee of Holden</i>
NATHAN HARRINGTON	
JOHN CHILD j ^r	
JOHN ABBOTT	
SAMEL HUBBARD	
SAMEL THOMPSON	

“Among papers belonging to the Rev. Mr. Avery, I have found a small memorandum book, which contains some entries of peculiar interest. The book bears date 1782. That was a period of great distress among the people. The war had been long. Money was scarce, and it was with some difficulty that Mr. Avery received his annual salary. His parishioners, however, were disposed to share with their pastor the good things of life. ‘Memorandum of gifts received.’ ‘Of Dea. Hubbard, a piece of beef ; a pail of soap ; a loaf of bread ; a few candles ; 2 quarts of milk ; a cheese and 4 lbs. of butter.’ ‘Of Mr. Abbott, a piece of beef and of pork ; also a spare-rib ; 3 candles ; some malt and a piece of bread, also two wash tubs and 30 nails, and a few hops.’ ‘Of Lieut. Hubbard, a piece of beef, a cheese and some malt.’ ‘Of Mr. Eben^r Estabrook, a leg of pork.’ ‘Of Dea. Fiske, a piece of beef, Jan’y 5th.’ ‘Of Capt. Samuel Hubbard, a leg of pork and a spare-rib, Jan’y

6th.' 'Of Mr. Howe, a piece of pork, Jan'y 6th.' 'Of Mr. Cheney, a cheese and some sausages.' 'Of Mr. Josiah Cheney, Jr., some beans.' 'Of Mr. Jona. Rice, a leg of pork.' 'Of Mr. Winch, a piece of fresh meat—lamb.' 'Of Capt. Davis, a cheese and some sauce.' 'Of Aaron Wheeler, a broom, soon after I came to my house.' 'Of Moses Smith, 2 doz. candles, some butter.' 'Of Mr. Dryden, $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. pigeons.'

"The ladies of that day were equally thoughtful in regard to the wants of the Parish Priest. 'Of Mrs. Benj. Flagg, a cheese.' 'Of Mrs. Fisk, a lb. of combed flax.' 'Of Mrs. Elisha Hubbard, some flax.' 'Of Mrs. Potter, some butter and a broom.' 'Of Mrs. Newton, a piece of veal and a calf's head.' 'Of Mrs. Holt, some cloth for a shirt.' 'Of Mrs. Mead, some butter, apples, potatoes.' 'Of Mrs. Heard, a loin of veal.'

"The most abundant evidence might be adduced, to show, that the people of Holden unitedly, cordially and manfully engaged with their fellow countrymen in the war of the revolution. The trials, hardships, and dangers of eight summer and eight winter campaigns had not quenched the ardent love of liberty in the bosoms of colonists, who could say, 'We are two millions, one fifth fighting men. We are bold and vigorous, and we call no man master.'¹ It is not a point of uncertain conjecture, but of sober history that the principles of liberty set forth in the Declaration of Independence had previously been a subject of discussion in almost every village throughout the thirteen colonies. A rough block of granite may be squared and polished, but that block was granite before the stone hewer's tool and the burnisher's instrument prepared its surface. The fourteen resolutions passed by the citizens of Holden, and similar passed by other towns, contained the elements afterwards combined in that memorable document of State, in which the people of this land declared themselves—*Independent, Free and Equal*. Taking the proceedings and resolves of the inhabitants of this town as evidence of the actual state of

¹ James Otis.

things among the colonists, no candid man can rise from their persual, without the impression upon his mind that each village must have had its Jefferson, Adams, Sherman, Franklin and Henry.

“The immediate and lasting effects of the revolutionary war upon the interests of this town, deserve a few passing remarks. The unwise policy of England was first felt along our sea-coast. (1.) Numerous families hitherto obtaining their livelihood from the seas, were driven to other pursuits. For this cause, not less than ten families removed from Harwich and vicinity (upon the Cape) to Holden. Such were the Rogers, settling two miles south. (2.) All lands belonging to persons supporting the cause of the mother country, were confiscated. Many hundreds of acres within this township, were thus transferred to the State. The history of one tract, containing about six hundred acres, deserves notice. This tract of woodland belonged to William Brattle, Esq., of Cambridge. Under an Act of the Legislature, passed 1781, it was sold to pay State debts. Monsieur Pierre Matthieu Andre, captain of the ship Jonathan, belonging to Jean Francis Billou of Marseilles, in the south of France, purchased this tract of land, for £1,124, or about \$6 per acre. The ship Jonathan having been condemned, as unseaworthy, was sold and a part of the avails was invested in the purchase of this land. For many years, it was under the care of Ebenezer Estabrook, senior, and subsequently under the care of his son. Sufficient wood was, from time to time, cut off to pay the taxes. After much negotiation, it was sold in the year 1826, for about \$11 per acre. The proceeds were transmitted to the heirs of the original owner in France; a sufficient amount having been deducted to defray expenses attending the sale. The origin of the name *French land*, will have been apparent.

“(3.) The war of the revolution had scarcely been brought to a happy termination, before internal disorders threatened the overthrow of the general government. The insurrection, known in history as the Shays' Rebellion, stands prominent upon the annals of our country. The spirit of disaffection

very sensibly disturbed the order and decorum, which almost uniformly has characterized our town. I would now refrain from an allusion to this subject, if our town records, and the voice of tradition were silent. Historical truth, however, often duly checks and properly tempers the glow of admiration which we sometimes feel when contemplating the patriotic exertions of our fathers. The financial interests of our country were most deplorable, immediately subsequent to the war. Money was scarce. The currency was in disorder. Public and private debts were great, and in some parts of the country the load was well nigh insupportable.¹ To remedy a state of things so undesirable, some of our citizens resorted to the most unjustifiable measures. Their wrath broke forth upon the Courts of Justice. Capt. Wheeler of Hubbardston, the first week of September, 1786, heading a band of armed men, took possession of the Court House in Worcester. The standard of revolt being raised, drew some of our townsmen from the duties of quiet and peaceable citizens. The court adjourned until December following. The insurgents flushed with their partial success, returned home, to foment greater commotions. Other portions of the State caught the spirit of discontent. As the time approached for session of the Court of Common Pleas in December the insurgents (or Regulators as they styled themselves) headed by Daniel Shays,² were gathering their forces in the vicinity of Worcester. The Court, in the mean time, opened at the Sun Tavern, (United States Hotel) and adjourned until January 23d, without transacting farther business. December 6th, Shays entered Worcester mounted upon a white horse. About eight hundred troops formed his army. To compose this force numerous soldiers went from Holden. These incidents took place on Thursday. The next day was spent in consultation. A terrible storm of snow occurred Saturday. Gloom and despondency pervaded the bosoms of Shays' soldiers. Such as went from Holden,

¹ See Lincoln's History of Worcester, p. 115.

[² For an account of Shays, see Lincoln's History of Worcester, pp. 369—371.]

returned through the drifting snow to spend the Sabbath with their families. Shays conducted the remnant of his forces to Springfield, to interrupt the Court of Common Pleas, about to commence its session at that place.

"The Governor of Massachusetts called upon the militia of Boston and vicinity, to march under the command of Gen. Lincoln, and to force the insurgents to surrender. Success crowned the efforts of the constituted authorities. Peace was again restored to the country. I have freely spoken of the part taken by some of the citizens of Holden, because I became acquainted with many of the particulars from the lips of a Regulator. In perfect good humor, he gave me a list of such Regulators as went from Holden, not forgetting to enroll himself.

"Resolutions, disapproving the measures deemed justifiable by some of the inhabitants of Holden, were passed by a highly respectable body of men in town. Their names I feel myself honored to read.¹ The document to which they were appended, is supposed to have been drafted by the Rev. Mr. Avery. These gentlemen caused their protest, with some accompanying documents to be published in the Worcester Magazine, for the third week of January, 1787.²

"If this were a proper occasion, many palliating considerations might be suggested, which would go far to remove the charge of treason from persons attempting, by military force to arrest the legal Court sessions at Worcester and other places.

"The first meeting-house exhibiting signs of decay, the question was discussed in Town Meeting, December 10th, 1787, 'Shall the old meeting-house be repaired, or a new

[¹ John Child, Richard Flagg, Samuel Heywood, Amos Heywood, Reuben Paddock, James Davis, Isaiah Brown, Thomas Knowles, John Abbott, Paul Goodale, Samuel Chickering, John Dods, George Webb, Jonas Hubbard, John Holden, Israel Davis, Jr., Edmund Hall, Asa Greenwood, James Dods, Joseph Hubbard, Joseph Hubbard, Jr., Tilly Hubbard, Samuel Hubbard, Elnathan Davis, Sam. Heywood, Jr., Samuel Damon, Benjamin Flagg, Lemuel Abbott, Aaron Newell, Abel Howe.] They were read at the time.

[² Damon History, pp. 81—91.]

house built?¹ It was the opinion of the town to build a new house. A committee was appointed to draft a plan, and estimate the probable cost. The house was erected during the year 1789.² Many of this audience remember to have worshipped in that house, which was re-built during the years 1827-8. An acre of land, in nearly the center of which this house stands, was given to the town of Holden for a public common, and for the accomodation of a public meeting-house, 1789, by Hon. John Hancock.³

"No sooner were the citizens of Holden permitted to worship in their new house, than a vigorous effort was made to erect good and convenient school houses in different parts of the town. In the year 1793, the sum of £400 was raised for this purpose.⁴ It is most interesting to trace in the history of Holden, or any other community, the progress of the gospel and the public instruction of the young. When one is neg-

¹ Town Records, vol. 2.

² May 10, 1790, the Town "Voted that the Committee Chosen to Provide Rum & sugar to Treat Spectators at the Raising of the Meeting house be appointed to settle with Capt Davis for the money he Laid out for sd Rum & sugar, and to take part of the above said fourteen pounds of Fine-money to settle it with."

After the house was completed, and the people had become located in their respective pews, it was provided that "the wives sit in the seats opposite to, and equal in rank with, their husbands." Also that the audience should not leave their seats, until the Pastor and Deacons had passed out.

³ "... For and [in] consideration of the sum of five shillings and of the love, good will & affection which I have and do bear to the Town of Holden in the County of Worcester, and from a respect to the publick worship of God, do hereby give, grant and convey to the said Town of Holden one Acre of land in the centree of said Town of Holden for the Accommodation of a publick Meeting House bounded as follows beginning at a heap of stones near the Spot appropriated for the foundation of the Meetinghouse thence running North-east twenty rods on land of the Revd Joseph Davis to a heap of stones thence turning at right angles and running North-west eight rods to a heap of stones & thence South-west twenty rods to a heap of stones on the publick Road & thence eight rods on said Road to the first mentioned bounds the aforesaid land to lay a Common forever." The Deed of Hon. John Hancock to the inhabitants of Holden. County Records.

⁴ Town Records, vol. 2.

lected the other languishes. They appear mutually to affect each other.

“An unpleasant controversy relating to church music, disturbed the peace of the society in town, near the close of the eighteenth century. Some of the regular attendants upon public worship refused to occupy their seats in the meeting-house unless the psalms and hymns could be sung without the aid of the unconsecrated viol and the unhallowed pitch-pipe. The venerable pastor exerted most strenuously his peace-making talents. An uncommon share he was acknowledged to possess. A reconciliation between the parties was effected by the council and advice of so wise a mediator. After a few weeks had elapsed, it was discovered to be more than a poetical truth, that

‘Music hath charms to soothe the *savage* breast’.

“We are approaching the limit, where I proposed to close a connected narrative of the history of Holden. The last event in the eighteenth century deserving of notice on the present occasion, is the just tribute of respect paid throughout the country to the lamented Washington. He died at Mount Vernon, December 14th, 1799. Congress recommended and set apart February 22d, 1800, as the day when the nation unitedly might render becoming public testimonials of their sorrow and grief for the illustrious DEAD.

“The citizens of Holden observed the day by engaging in appropriate exercises. The military parade was conducted by Capt. George Webb. A long procession passed between files of soldiers, whose inclining heads rested upon their ‘arms reversed’. An eulogy was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Avery. The singing is reported to have been excellent, and was conducted by Mr. Joseph Estabrook. The following lines, set to appropriate music, were sung :

“ ‘From Vernon’s Mount, behold the Hero rise,
Resplendent forms attend him through the skies ;
The shades of War-worn Vet’rans round him throng,
And lead enrapt their honored Chief along.

A laurel wreath th' immortal Warren bears ;
 An arch triumphal Mercer's hand prepares ;
 Young Lawrence, erst avenging bolt of war,
 With port majestic guides the glittering car ;
 Montgomery's Godlike form directs the way,
 And Greene unfolds the gates of endless day,
 While angels, trumpet tongu'd, proclaim through air,
 Due honors for the first of men prepare.'

"If time could be spared in consistency with the other exercises of this anniversary, I would proceed to narrate historical events which have occurred during the past forty years. A history of the Baptist Church ; a continuation of the history of the Congregational Church ; an account of our public and private schools ; a history of voluntary and benevolent societies ; municipal affairs ; military movements ; masonry ; history of the post office department ; justices of the peace ; physicians ; college graduates ; missionaries ; and numerous other topics would demand our attention.¹

"Some have died among this people, whose memories deserve a grateful recollection. I must ask of this audience the indulgence of a few moments while I speak of the Rev. Joseph Avery.² A century has passed since this town was organized, and during one-half this period this reverend gentleman sustained the office of Pastor to this people.

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"The honored and beloved consort of the venerable parson still lives, being now in the eighty-seventh year of her age.³

"Having spoken thus of a man, who lived and labored so long and faithfully as a spiritual guide. I will make a few remarks upon the life and character of another individual⁴

[¹ Many of these topics were treated in the Appendix to the History, when published.]

[² The sketch of Mr. Avery will be found among the Personal Notices,]

[³ Mrs. Avery died April, 1842.]

[⁴ The sketch of Dr. Isaac Chenery will be found among the Personal Notices.]

whose labors as a physician were uncommonly useful to the people of this and the neighboring towns, throughout a period of more than half a century.

“ The length of time spent in presenting such facts as I have been able to gather, relating to the history of Holden, will prevent me from indulging in remarks naturally suggested by the exercises of this day.

“ The citizens of Holden have received abundant blessings, which impressively call upon them on this occasion to be devoutly thankful to God. Honest, intelligent, industrious and religious ancestors are among the richest of Heaven’s blessings to any people. Citizens of Holden : God has bestowed upon you that inestimable blessing. The wise man has well observed, ‘ The glory of children are their Fathers ’. I have found to be beautifully expressed by another,¹ my concluding remarks,

“ ‘ Look not mournfully into the Past. It comes not back again. Wisely improve the Present. It is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy Future without fear, and with a manly heart ’.”

¹ Professor Longfellow’s Hyperion.

CHAPTER III.

LATER HISTORY, 1800 TO 1841.

CHANGES IN TERRITORY.—TOWN HOUSE.—CARE OF POOR.—
TOWN FUNDS.—MEETING-HOUSE.—REV. JOSEPH AVERY.
—REV. HORATIO BARDWELL.—TOWN AND CHURCH.—
MANUFACTURES.—FOURTH OF JULY, 1806.—POLITICS.—
TEMPERANCE.—A MURDER.—A SLAVE GIRL.



RESUMABLY on account of the very freshness and familiarity of later events, Dr. Damon, it is to be regretted, closed his history with the eighteenth century. It is consequently unavoidable that much of what happened in this town early in this century, though doubtless worthy of remembrance, should now be permanently lost to record.

In the first half of this century, the Legislature several times set off small portions of the territory of Holden to neighboring towns. Thus a long strip on the east was bestowed on West Boylston. In 1796, the inhabitants of what is now West Boylston, unable to get incorporated as a town, became, for the sake of convenience of worship, the Second Precinct of Boylston, Shrewsbury and Holden. January 30th, 1808, this division became permanent by the incorporation of the town. To the dowry of her new neighbor Holden contributed a strip of land about five miles long, one hundred rods wide at the northern end and three hundred rods wide at the southern end. February 13th, 1804, six men¹

¹ John Davis, Ebenezer Boynton, Nathan Harrington, Samuel Harrington, Micah Harrington and Ephraim Harrington.

with their polls and estates were set off to Paxton, and April 9th, 1838, part of the farm of Samuel D. Harrington, containing about ten acres, was also set off to Paxton. On the other hand, March 19th, 1831, a tract of land belonging to Hezekiah Bent, amounting to one hundred and thirty-five rods, was set from Paxton to Holden. These changes from one town to another account for the present irregularity of the boundary, which was originally straight.

Not till 1836, well toward the close of its first century of corporate existence, did Holden have a Town House. Up to that time, town meetings were regularly held in the meeting-house of the Congregational Church, which was first built and later repaired at public expense, and consequently up to the separation of Church and State was properly controlled and used by the town. The first town meeting was called in the new Hall, November 14th, 1836, but the report of the Building Committee¹ was not rendered till a year later. According to their report, the building was "built in a permanent & workmanlike manner on a strong substantial foundation and most of the [work] and materials have been much to their satisfaction, is sixty feet long including the piazza and thirty eight feet wide". The building was erected under contract by Martin Harrington, and cost \$3,869.58.

The care of paupers was long a problem. In 1794, it had been voted that the Selectmen provide a house for the town's poor, but at the same meeting it was afterward voted that the Selectmen should use their discretion in the matter, and no house seems to have been procured. In 1797, we find it voted "to Dispose of the towns poor to the lowest bidder voted also that the Selectmen appoint a time and put up an advertisement for a Vendue for that purpose". This method of arranging for their care, however repellent to the sentiment of to-day, was common at that time, and we may fairly presume that it continued until the establishment of a town Poor Farm. After

¹ The "Committee for Building Town House" were Samuel Damon, Daniel Knowlton, William Metcalf, George Flag and Charles Chaffin.

repeated discussions, in 1830, the "James Davis" place was bought, and a house was soon after fitted up for the reception of the paupers, of whom, in 1837, there were no less than twenty. The cost of their support, as reported to the March meeting, 1838, was \$557.39.

A blank space on a page of the third volume of town records bears the following entry, "On the first Day of January 1807 The Town of Holden Had on Interest \$4115.95 Cents". As in 1809 the interest on the School funds alone was \$246.95, it would seem that the above mentioned sum arose from the sale of the lands appropriated to school purposes, and that the town also held in trust and had on interest, arising from the sale of the Ministerial lands, a sum yielding the yearly interest of \$94.72. March 4th, 1815, the record reads, "The Town has on Interest \$4692.98. Ministeral money on Interest \$1578:70 cts." In 1837 it was "Voted to authorize the Town Treasurer to receive this Towns proportion of the Surplus Revenue" and "that the same go to pay the Debts of the Town". From later reports it appears that \$3,644.20 was thus received and used. Committees had more than once been appointed to investigate the sources from which the funds of the town had been derived, and to ascertain what part of them might be applied to the current expenses of the town, and, although no record of their findings appears, it is plain that some portion of the funds had been applied to the payment of current expenses or of debts, as in 1841 only the sum of \$202 is entered as interest on town fund. Although the town has now no longer the fund at interest, but has used up the principal, yet this same sum of \$202 is still every year scrupulously appropriated for school purposes, in accordance with the intent for which the lands were originally set apart by the proprietors. In the same year (1841) an unconditional bequest of \$300 was received by the town from the estate of Ethan Davis.

It still belonged to the town to repair their meeting-house, but so wisely was the matter managed that the funds of the town were not thereby seriously impaired. In 1820 "The Town Voted \$100 to purchase two Stoves and Funnels to be

placed in the meeting House. Voted that the Selectmen be a Committee to purchase the Stoves and Funnels and place the same where they think proper on the Towns property by the first of November next." That this was done is shown by the entry in the report of the Treasurer, presented March 5th, 1821, "Expense of Stoves and Funnels and putting up, \$125.50". September 3d, 1827, it was "Voted that the town take Five Hundred and ninety Dollars that the six Front pew grounds sold for and appropriate the same to help pay the expense of the new alteration" and "to raise the sum of Five Hundred Dollars to defray the expenses of the addition and alteration of the Meetinghouse". In the following year (1828) the house was removed to the site which it now occupies, enlarged and remodeled. "It originally stood about midway from its present site to the highway in front. It was moved back, the roof turned a quarter round, a vestibule and dome added, and the inside made entirely new, to correspond with the prevailing mode of construction at that day."¹ The work of rebuilding was done under contract by Col. Daniel Harrington. At a cost of \$550 (estimated) the bell was purchased, and for many years was rung at twelve o'clock, noon, and at nine in the evening. All the pews were appraised, purchased, put into a common stock, and sold again at auction. From the final report of the Building Committee,² April 27th, 1829, it appeared that the old pews were bought in for \$3,749 and that \$5,274.30 had been spent in repairs and improvements, that the pews had been resold for \$9,792, and that the net result was that (with eight pews still unsold) the sum of \$691.18 remained to be disposed of by the Society for their use.

The official relations of the pastors of the Congregational Church were matters of town business until the coming of Dr. Paine in 1833. From December 21st, 1774, till the first Sun-

¹ A Sermon, preached to the Congregational Church and Society in Holden, October 25th, 1863; the Sunday following the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Settlement of their Pastor, Rev. Wm. P. Paine, D.D., p. 12.

² The Committee were Samuel Damon, Ethan Davis, David Davis, and Silas Flagg.

day in May, 1822, Rev. Joseph Avery was pastor of the town. November 12th, 1821, it was "Voted to choose a Committee to converse with the Rev. Joseph Avery relative to his being Dismist from his Ministerial services and the Selectmen and Assessors were chosen for that purpose." It is plain that the suggestion did not meet with his favor, for after repeated adjournments the meeting was obliged to dissolve without action. The matter once broached, it was not, however, to be allowed to rest. A special town meeting was at once called on this business alone. Another committee was chosen "for the purpose of conversing with the Rev. Joseph Avery Relative to the terms on which he will Relinquish his Ministerial Office or the Superintendency of the Church in the Town and he remain their old Pastor only or agree with him upon a sum by the year or a sum to settle with him in full or any thing or things Relative to his connection with the Town." Agreement, however, was impossible. The town voted "to settle a Colleague with the Rev. Joseph Avery on any conditions," and finally after repeated adjournments, the meeting dissolved. The matter was at last referred to a mutual Council, which convened March 27th, 1822, and decided that it was expedient, "the Rev. Joseph Avery should relinquish all the official services of the Ministry in this Town, . . . but that he should retain his Pastoral and ministerial office, during his natural life," and further that it was "just and equitable, that the Congregational Society of Holden should annually pay Rev. Mr Avery during his natural life, one Hundred and forty-five Dollars," in lieu of the three hundred dollars (latterly three hundred and fifty dollars) which he had been receiving. This decision was acceded to by both parties.

Invitations to settlement here were then vainly extended to several ministers, a Colleague Pastor not being found for nearly eighteen months. September 29th, 1823, the town united with the Church in a successful call to the Rev. Horatio Bardwell, who was installed October 23d, 1823. He remained here nearly eight years. February 20th, 1832, the civil contract existing between him and the Society was dissolved at

his own request, although it was left for the Council which installed Dr. Paine, his successor, nearly two years later, to loose the ecclesiastical tie.

At about the time of Mr. Bardwell's coming, the financial affairs of the Congregational Church ceased to be managed by the town as a whole. The warning of the town meeting of November 12th, 1821, which first raised the question of the dismissal of Mr. Avery, ran in the ordinary form to "all the Inhabitants in Holden Qualified to vote in Town affairs." The cost of supplying the pulpit from May, 1822, to October, 1823, was defrayed from the town treasury, as were even the expenses of entertaining the Council. It was also long customary to vote an annual appropriation for a singing school to be under the care of the Congregational Church, as also, in 1816, the sum of twenty-five dollars was voted "to Purchase an Instrument or Instruments to assist the Vocal musick in this Town." After 1822, however, business relating to the church was transacted only at special meetings, to which were summoned "all the Inhabitants in said Town qualified to act on the following articles." The records of these meetings were, however, entered on the town books, as part of the records of the town, the town clerk being thereby clerk of the Society, and the town treasurer, *ex officio*, Society treasurer. This arrangement lasted till after Mr. Bardwell left. A committee was then chosen "to secure some person as Preacher," and with the record of this action the participation of the town in matters ecclesiastical forever ceased.

Manufacturing seems to have begun in this town in 1809, when Messrs. Eleazar Rider and Sons began spinning yarn at Unionville. Weaving by power loom was begun by Mr. John Lees in the same factory in 1822. Manufacturing rapidly increased so that in 1831 there were in Holden five cotton mills, two woolen mills, two tanneries, ten saw-mills and three grist-mills. The woolen mills had in 1837 an output of ninety-two thousand yards, and four of the cotton mills, in 1840, of one million, fifty thousand yards. The fifth cotton mill employed eleven hands in the manufacture of cotton batting

and wicking. In 1837, boots and shoes were manufactured to the value of \$20,500.

Among other interesting and valuable documents preserved by Dr. Damon is "An Oration, delivered at Holden, July 4th, 1806, By Joseph Avery". This is at once the only printed production of this venerated pastor and the only record of such early celebrations of Independence Day in this town. The customary toasts, eighteen in number, were subjoined "by desire." Some of them interestingly illustrate the sentiment of the times, as for example, "The United States.—May their union be complete; and may they never want wise and good men to guide their public affairs". "The American Navy.—May its flag become respected by all nations," and the one volunteer toast, "The Fair Sex.—May they ever meet with that attention, friendship and fidelity, to which their eminent rank, and high importance in life so justly entitle them".

Politically, Holden was strongly Federalist. In 1803 one hundred and thirty-one votes were cast for Strong to one for Gerry. Like their neighbors, the citizens of this town were strenuously opposed to the Embargo. August 22d, 1808, the Rev. Joseph Avery, William Drury, Esq. and Lemuel Davis, Esq. were chosen a committee "to Draught a Petition to the President of the United States for a Suspension of the Embargo in whole or in part," and "the Town voted to accept of the Draught the Committee had made with only one Dissenting Vote". (It is a pity that tradition has not preserved the name of this man with a mind of his own against all his townsmen.) "The Town then Voted that the Selectmen of the Town of Holden Forward s^d Petition to the President of the United States of America." The next year a similar petition was sent to the Legislature.

Later the burning questions were rather social, though not without political relations and consequences. About the year 1830, the matter of temperance began to excite great interest. The constitution of the first Temperance Society formed in this town, was adopted September 15th, 1829. This pledged

only to abstinence from the use of distilled spirits. In 1841 a "Washington Total Abstinence Society" was formed. The records of the churches at that time contain frequent references to attempts to restrain or reclaim drunkards. In 1835 the town voted (one hundred and fifteen to forty-five) that the Selectmen be instructed to withhold their approbation from any person as an innholder to sell ardent spirits. In every way, during the decade from 1830 to 1840, temperance was an exciting and divisive topic.

Public opinion in this town was doubtless greatly affected by the murder of Philip Edwards by John L. Davis, August 15th, 1838, perpetrated while the latter was under the influence of alcoholic insanity. Davis, a man who was in the habit of using liquor to such an extent that he had previously shown symptoms of similar derangement, had within the week before the tragedy drunk about two gallons of rum. Utterly frenzied, he spent the night of the 14th of August wandering about his house and yard, shrieking "Murder!" and whetting a knife and axe. In the early morning, seeing Edwards, a neighbor, a poor man, but industrious, worthy and respected, passing to his work, he rushed out, and in spite of his pitiful entreaties, felled him to the ground with repeated blows, so fracturing the skull that he died almost immediately. Davis was at once arrested. The Grand Jury, however, failed to find an indictment against him on account of his evident irresponsibility. The Court then committed him to an Insane Asylum, where he remained until the physicians pronounced him cured.

With the evil of slavery, Holden had a less tragic connection. In the spring of 1838, Mrs. Olivia Eames, returning from New Orleans, brought with her as nurse to her children a young black girl, Anne. After a time she began negotiations with reference to selling her into slavery again. This becoming known, a writ of personal replevin was issued, the girl was removed from the custody of her mistress after long and violent resistance to the process of law on the part of the latter, and bonds were given by friends for the appearance of the girl in court at the trial of the case. At the December

term of court, 1838, judgment was, by agreement, taken against the defendant, Mrs. Eames, in the sum of one dollar and costs, and thus the freedom of the girl was judicially and finally established. Meantime four citizens of Holden, Samuel Stratton, Samuel Foster, Farnum White, Jr. and James Cheney were indicted for conspiracy to remove Anne from the voluntary service of Mrs. Eames, and for the accomplishment of that purpose making use of the process of law commonly called writ of personal replevin. Learning the fact of their indictment, they voluntarily gave themselves up. Their trial was held January 29th and 30th, 1839. It was clearly shown that the girl was under such constraint that she dared not make her fears and wishes known publicly, but that she had privately communicated to those in whom she had confidence her desire to become free. In view of this testimony the prosecuting attorney declared that the defendants were entitled to a verdict in their favor, which the jury promptly rendered.

CHAPTER IV.

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

THE DAY.—PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS.—INVITATION.—
THE PROGRAM.—THE TOASTS.—ADDRESSES BY MESSRS.
HAVEN AND DAVIS.—PUBLICATION OF THE HISTORICAL
ADDRESS.



HE Centennial Anniversary of the municipal organization of the Town of Holden was celebrated May 4th, 1841. According to old records and diaries, May, 1741, "was like a summer month," and "on the day of the old style then, which corresponded with the fourth of May now, trees were budding, flowers were springing, and windows were thrown open to admit the warm sun".¹ But no such delightful warmth and verdure gladdened the Centennial of Holden. The fourth day of May, 1841, was remarkable, even in the climate of New England, for its chilliness. The snow, which had fallen to an unusual depth the preceding week, still lay upon the ground. At sunrise, in Worcester, the thermometer marked 33°, and all day long, though the sun shone out clear and bright, the north-west wind was chilled with the breath of winter.

The celebration was under the direction of the following committee, which was chosen at a meeting of citizens held at the Town Hall on the evening of November 30th, 1840, viz.: Samuel Damon, Charles Chaffin, Paul Davis,

¹ William Lincoln, Esq., in *National Aegis*, Worcester, May 19, 1841; reprinted in the Damon History, p. 5.

William Metcalf, Jonathan Rice, Silas M. Hubbard, Lemuel Fiske, Silas Flagg, Jason Mann, Samuel Foster, John Davis, James Winch and Judah Wright. Rev. William P. Paine was first invited to deliver the address on the occasion, but he having declined on account of his arduous duties as a pastor, Mr. Samuel C. Damon, at that time a student in the Andover Theological Seminary, received and accepted the invitation of the committee to give the address.

The following invitation was issued April 28th, 1841 :

“CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

“THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY *of the municipal organization of Holden, will be celebrated by the citizens of said town, on Tuesday, the fourth day of May next.*

An Address will be delivered at 11 o'clock, A. M., by Mr. S. C. Damon.

Citizens of other towns, and especially such as have formerly been inhabitants of Holden, are invited to be present, and participate in the exercises of the occasion.

A Dinner will be provided at the Town Hall, by S. Davis.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.”

At eleven o'clock in the forenoon, a procession was formed at the house of Col. Samuel Damon, under the direction of the following Marshals : Chenery Abbott, Le Baron Putnam, Joab S. Holt, Charles L. Knowlton, Ethan Davis, Nathan Howe, William Howe, Sparrow Crosby and James S. Moore. Led by the Paxton Band, the procession moved to the meeting-house, which was crowded on the occasion.

After music by the band, the following hymn was sung, composed by Mr. Judah Wright, a citizen of Holden, nearly seventy years of age, and blind from his infancy.

“ Let us our grateful voices raise,
To celebrate Jehovah’s praise,—
Our fathers trusted in his care,
And we his richest blessings share.

When we a hundred years review,
We see the efforts of a few
Increasing, till a rising Town
Does their judicious labors crown.

Dark forests from the view recede,
And herds and flocks in safety feed,
And plenty crowns a cheerful home,
Where prowling wolves were wont to roam.

The active, hardy, wise and brave
Have reached their common home — the grave;
And beauty, once the source of pride,
Has long since mouldered by their side.

The ravages which time hath made,
Teach us that all on earth must fade;
Then let our best affections rise
To solid joys beyond the skies.

Though nothing here can long endure,
The throne Eternal stands secure,
And there we may repose our trust,
Nor dread the summons, ‘dust to dust’.”

Prayer was then offered by Rev. Horatio Bardwell, a former pastor in Holden, and at that time pastor at Oxford. An anthem, “Oh! Praise ye the Lord,” by Haydn, was then sung by the choir. The Address by Mr. Damon has already been reprinted in this history. After the Address the following hymn, prepared for the occasion by J. H. Bancroft,¹ was sung.

¹ Jacob Henry Bancroft was the son of Jacob Bancroft, Esq., of Boston. He was graduated from Amherst College in 1839, being a classmate of R. S. Storrs, D. D., of Brooklyn, and of W. D. Huntington, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Central New York, who paid to him a very tender tribute in Dr. Sprague’s “Annals of the American Pulpit,” vol. 2, p. 760. He was a fellow student of Dr. Damon at the Andover Theological Seminary,

HISTORY OF HOLDEN.

“ One hundred years have rolled away,
Unrealized, unseen, unfelt,
Since first before thine altars here,
O God ! our holy fathers knelt.

They lie beneath those swelling mounds,
Those ancient graves that once were green ;
No granite block, no marble pile
Above their resting-place is seen.

Yet here they live,—the thoughts of God
That in their children’s bosoms thrill,
Each holy prayer, each stirring hope,—
All these are their memorials still.

First in their noble thoughts and plans,
The love and worship, Lord, of Thee ;
Then, the strong training of their youth,
The love of Man and Liberty.

And when, above our old grey hills,
They heard the battle thunders roll,
They looked on those brave men who died,
With a stern sympathy of soul.

And here we meet — remembering those
Who laid these first foundations well,
That, o’er their honored dust, one strain
Of triumph and of love may swell.

And we, like them, shall pass away,
Our thoughts and wishes, hopes and fears,
Lie buried in our scattered graves,
Within another hundred years.”

And now we bend before Thee here,
Stand on the ground our fathers trod ;
Be Thou our strength, our life, our light,
Our own, as once our fathers’ God.”

at whose request he wrote this hymn, accompanying it with the express injunction that his name should not be made known, to which Mr. Damon conformed till 1875, when the story of the hymn was written. Mr. Bancroft died in 1844.

"This hymn was read and sung after the ancient fashion, which was called 'deaconing.' The venerable Deacon Rice, having consented to take part in the services of the church, standing in his place at the communion table, read, line by line. The scene when the whole of that vast congregation rose and joined with the choir in solemn melody after the manner of 'they of a hundred years ago', was deeply impressive."¹

Prayer was offered by Rev. John Keep² of Pelham, N. H.; the anthem, "Thy Love will build up Zion," was rendered, and the exercises at the church closed with the benediction, pronounced by Rev. William P. Paine.

The procession then reformed, and about one hundred and eighty gentlemen and one hundred and forty ladies were conducted by the same marshals to the Town Hall, where dinner was served. The blessing was asked at the table by Rev. Mr. Bardwell, and thanks were later returned by Rev. Andrew Pollard.

Col. Samuel Damon presided at the tables, and announced the following toasts :

1. "*The Day we Celebrate*,—Abounding in interesting associations and hallowed reflections, and sacred to the memory of those who acted here an hundred years ago."

2. "*The flourishing Town of which this was originally a part*.—She did not cast us off, nor did we rebel—but 'the Heart of the Commonwealth' was too large for the body."

William Lincoln, Esq., of Worcester, responded, and at the close of his remarks gave the following :

"*Holden and Worcester*.—United in past time within the same territorial boundaries, may they hereafter be more closely connected by the ties of friendship."

3. "*Hon. Samuel Holden and Gov. Hancock, Benefactors of the Town*.—To the munificence of the one we are in-

¹ Mr. Lincoln's Report. The Damon History, p. 9.

² Mr. Keep married Relief, daughter of Ethan Davis.

debted for a valuable Library, and to the other for our beautiful Common."

Samuel F. Haven, Esq., Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society, said in response, among other things:

"The present occasion is not one of merely local interest. The reminiscences of events that happened in this neighborhood, anecdotes of men who have lived here, the record of manners and habits, all constitute a tributary stream to the general current of our country's history. All history should be, and American history in particular must be, the history of the people,—not an account of the proceedings of a court, or the operations of any government only, but of what the people have been doing in villages and communities and families. These things lie at the foundation of national character and sentiment, and consequently of national events. How would it be possible, for instance, for us to understand the philosophy of our Revolution, and appreciate the spirit that originated and sustained it, without going into the villages and upon the farms and into the dwellings, by the aid of local traditions and histories, and seeing what manner of men were there—how they lived, and what they felt, and thought, and did? We are carried by this means behind the scenes, or rather into the scenes, of private history, and shown what are really the secret springs of public history. Those matters which possess a natural interest to a particular neighborhood from association with familiar names and places, should be of interest to every one, who seeks, in the experience of the past, for that wisdom which may be derived from a knowledge of what those who lived before us have done or suffered—wherein they have erred and in what respects they have judged rightly."

4. "*The Governor of the Commonwealth*,—A worthy and honored descendant of the moderator of our first town meeting, which we are celebrating."¹

5. "*The Patriotic and Pious Resolutions of our Forefathers*,—Whose first vote after their municipal organization, was 'to have the gospel preached', and the next 'to have a reading and writing school kept'."

¹ See Genealogical Table of the Davis Family; p. 60.

This sentiment was appropriately answered by Rev. Mr. Paine, but a record of his remarks has not been preserved.

6. "*Honor to the Memory of our Mothers, who Presided over the Distaff and the Loom.*—May their refined and beautiful daughters be as much distinguished for their industry, energy and virtue."

In acknowledgment of this sentiment, the ladies sent to the chair the following :

"*The Gallant Sons of our Venerable Fathers.*—The Daughters still acknowledge their authority and respect their dignity, while they continue to protect and honor them."

7. "*The Distinguished Historian of Worcester,*—By whose assiduous labors among musty rolls, the early annals of our town have been put in an enduring form."

This sentiment evoked a very happy response from Mr. Lincoln.

The President then offered as the last regular Toast :

8. "*The Patriots of the Revolution, of whom this Town furnished its full quota.*—Let the memory of the departed be cherished, and the living be crowned with honor."

Isaac Davis, Esq., of Worcester, was called upon to reply, and spoke nearly as follows :

"*Mr. President:* One hundred and twenty years ago there was seen a man, with a plough on his shoulder, passing very near the spot where we are now assembled. This individual pursued his course a few miles west of us, where he thrust the plough into the virgin soil, cast in the seed and reaped the fruit of his labors. That man was the father of the first minister of Holden, and filled various offices of trust in the first municipal elections. I refer to Lieut. Simon Davis, whose remains are entombed in yonder church-yard. He was my great-great grandfather.¹ About 12 years ago on a 'raw and gusty day' in the month of March, there was seen a young man resembling myself, riding with a young lady whom he had taken

¹ See Genealogical Table of the Davis Family, p. 60.

‘for better and for worse,’ over nearly the same ground that the sturdy pioneer of the forest passed. Her ancestors lay in yonder graveyard. These, Mr. President, are some of the relations I bear to those who have lived in the first century of Holden. With these connections I do not feel that I am ‘an alien and a stranger’ here. Never—no, never have I looked on a New England audience with more intense interest than on the present occasion. A few days since I was traveling in Old England—looking at her soil, her climate, her institutions, and the state and condition of her people, and be assured, Sir, I came home with renewed love for our own happy homes, our own glorious institutions. We do not know, nor can we know, how much the masses there suffer, unless we personally witness their degradation. What we call poverty is there considered a comfortable condition. To see the citizens of one of the thrice happy towns of New England assembled for the purpose of celebrating an anniversary like the present, is, to my mind, a noble spectacle. It leads me to the contemplation of the social, civil and religious privileges we are now enjoying. Never have I so fully realized the inestimable value of these privileges. Never shall I again wonder and be surprised that our fathers left their native land, crossed the broad Atlantic at an inclement season of the year, and breasted the dangers incident to this western wilderness. They came to establish the institutions which we are now enjoying. Without troubling you with further remarks, Mr. President, allow me to offer a sentiment;

Our Social, Civil and Religious Institutions.—They cost great toil—great suffering—much treasure—much blood: but not half as much as they are worth.”

A soldier of the Revolution who was present, Mr. William Drury, replied to this sentiment with some appropriate remarks.

Col. James Estabrook, of Worcester, a native of Holden, also offered the following :

“The Early Settlers of Holden.—Distinguished for their love of order, peace and sobriety—piously devoted to the cause of civil and religious liberty. May we, their descendants, cherish their virtues, and not prove recreant sons by neglecting to do all in our

power to transmit them unimpaired to those who shall come after us."

The following note was the same day addressed to the orator of the day, Mr. Samuel C. Damon :

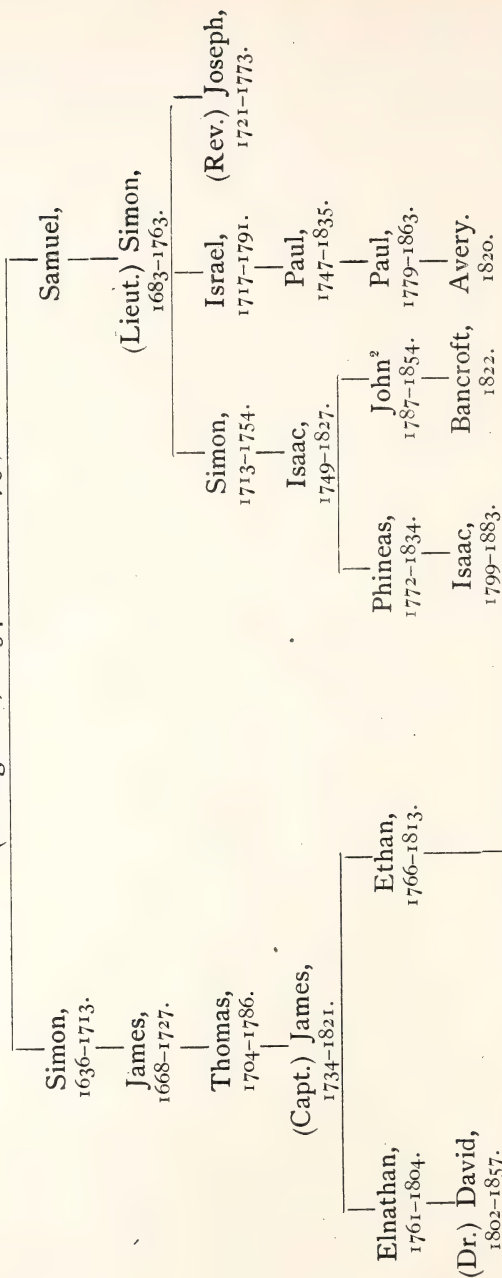
"*Dear Sir*: The subscribers, Committee of Arrangements, were appointed, before the Anniversary Exercises closed, to return the thanks of the audience to you, for your able address, and request a copy for the press."

In accordance with this request, Mr. Damon published the address, together with notes and supplementary matter, extending it to a volume of one hundred and fifty-five pages, with the title, "THE HISTORY OF HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS, 1667-1841."

GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF THE DAVIS FAMILY.¹

DOLOR DAVIS,

(Immigrated, 1634—died 1673.)



¹ This Table is intentionally incomplete, its object being merely to show the relations of the various generations and of the different branches of the family.

² "Honest John Davis," Governor of Massachusetts, 1834-5, 1841-3; Representative in Congress 1825-1834; U. S. Senator 1835-1841, 1845-1853.

CHAPTER V.

ANOTHER HALF-CENTURY.

SENTIMENT FOR FREEDOM. — THE HOLDEN RIFLES. — DEPARTURE AND RETURN. — HOLDEN'S QUOTAS. — MEMORIAL HALL. — THE TABLETS. — WAR EXPENSES. — RAILROADS. — TOWN HALL. — FINANCES. — THE POOR FARM ASSOCIATION. — CELEBRATIONS. — THE CYCLONE. — CHANGES.



HEN commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of his settlement in town, Dr. Paine said, "This long and harmonious connection is the more remarkable, in consideration of the great general commotion and excitement which have existed through this entire period. There has not been a moment for these thirty years, but the moral and political elements have been in active, and often angry and antagonistic disturbance. . . . Of course we have felt the agitating influence."¹ The first half of the period to be reviewed in this chapter was indeed a time of political storm and stress. We may say, however, that the sentiment and action of the great majority of the people of Holden tended constantly and consistently toward the progress and triumph of freedom. Here was ever to be found "the love of Man and Liberty". A single example will illustrate the steadily prevailing feeling of the people. In 1854, a petition against the Douglas Nebraska Bill was circulated in town for signa-

¹ A Sermon, preached to the Congregational Church and Society in Holden, October 25th, 1863; the Sunday following the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Settlement of their Pastor, Rev. William P. Paine, D. D., p. 17.

tures, and then forwarded to Mr. DeWitt, the Representative from this district, to be presented to Congress. It was reported at the time, (a rare if not unique record), that only one man refused to sign it, and he only because he had "some doubts" on the subject.¹ But neither the correctness nor the unanimity of sentiment in Holden could avert the coming storm.

When the storm at last broke in war, Holden was among the first towns in all the land to respond to the public call. Interest in military affairs had for a long time been very slight in this quiet community, but in 1857 a military company was organized under the name of "The Holden Rifles," forming a part of the State militia, at first, Company I of the Tenth Regiment, then Company B of the Third Battalion. The call of President Lincoln for seventy-five thousand men was received by Governor Andrew, April 15th, 1861. On the 20th, Major (afterwards Major General) Devens commanding the Third Battalion received orders to report at once at Washington with his three companies. At five o'clock in the afternoon of that same day, the Holden Rifles stood with full ranks in the streets of Worcester, awaiting the order to march, and that night they were on their way to the endangered capital. That evening the citizens of the town met in legal meeting (the warning having been posted, on account of the exigency, only four days), and "Voted to raise Fifteen hundred dollars for the benefit of the members of the Rifle Company and their families if need be, . . . to be expended under the direction of the Selectmen." The next day the women of Holden, instead of going to church, assembled in the Town Hall, and, from nine o'clock in the morning till sunset, worked for the benefit of the soldiers then speeding southward. After three months service, the longest term for which the militia could be ordered out of the Commonwealth, the Rifles returned with unbroken ranks, reaching home August 3d. By vote of the town they received a public welcome. A thousand people

¹ Worcester Spy, March 15th, 1854.

were awaiting their arrival. The citizens, under Joab S. Holt as marshal, escorted the returning soldiers to the common, where a collation had been prepared under the trees. Afterwards, Rev. Lester Williams presiding, Dr. Paine offered prayer, and Clark W. Gleason, as toastmaster, called out Rev. Merrill Richardson, Theron E. Hall, Martin V. B. Jefferson, Cyrus Chenery, Capt. Joseph H. Gleason and Ethan Davis.

For four years call followed call for troops, but Holden proved itself fully equal to all demands. One hundred and sixty different men went from Holden and for Holden, and by re-enlistments the number of soldiers credited to Holden reached two hundred and four. Of these no less than one hundred and twenty-seven enlisted for three years, seventeen for one year, twenty-nine for nine months, and thirty-one for three months, thus making a surplus of four beyond all demands that had been made. Twelve were commissioned officers, one colonel, one surgeon, one chaplain, one brevet major, four captains and four Lieutenants. Holden soldiers served in twenty-three regimental and other organizations from this state. The women of this town were not less lacking in devotion and service, but labored constantly and untiringly for the good of the "Boys in Blue," sending liberal contributions through the Sanitary and Christian Commissions.

After the close of the war, surviving veterans and friends of the soldiers organized a Soldiers' Monument Association. In various ways funds were for several years accumulated, until they amounted to \$1,100. When the Town Hall was rebuilt in 1876, the sum of five hundred dollars was paid toward the expense of the alterations with the privilege of placing suitable tablets in the Hall to commemorate the services of the soldiers who fell in the war. This was done at a cost of six hundred dollars in addition, and accordingly the upper hall is commonly and properly called "Memorial Hall." On each side of the platform are two tablets of white marble, set as panels in a heavy frame of darker marble, which is trimmed with granite and upon which are chiseled appropriate designs.

Liberty's

21ST REGT.

CAPT. IRA J. KELTON,
DIED OF WOUNDS
Sept. 24, 1862.

GEORGE T. BIGELOW,
Killed Sept. 17, 1862.

ALBERT CREED,
DIED OF WOUNDS
May 2, 1862.

JOHN FEARING,
DIED OF WOUNDS
Aug. 3, 1864.

25TH REGT.

EDWARD CLARK,
Died Sept. 18, 1863.

CHARLES GIBBS,
Died Sept. 13, 1864.

JAMES W. GOODNOW,
DIED IN PRISON
Sept. 23, 1864.

JAMES W. HALEY,
Died Feb. 22, 1864.

25TH REGT.

LYMAN E. KEYES,
Killed June 3, 1864.

GEORGE W. NEWELL,
DIED OF WOUNDS
July 24, 1864.

MICHAEL RILEY,
Killed May 16, 1864.

JOHN B. SAVAGE,
DIED IN PRISON
Mar. 1, 1864.

34TH REGT.

AMASA A. HOWE,
DIED IN PRISON
Nov. 25, 1864.

JOHN R. HOUGHTON,
Died Dec. 11, 1862.

GEORGE T. JOHNSON,
Died Jan. 4, 1865.

WILLIAM C. PERRY,
Died Oct. 21, 1862.

Sacrifice.

36TH REGT.

LEVI CHAMBERLAIN,
Killed May 12, 1864.

CALVIN HUBBARD,
DIED IN PRISON
Feb. 26, 1863.

SERGT. HARLAN P. MOORE,
Died Mar. 1, 1864.

WINSLOW B. ROGERS,
Died July 25, 1863.

ALFRED S. TUCKER,
DIED IN PRISON
Feb. 6, 1865.

HENRY M. HOLT,
Died Nov. 14, 1862.

56TH REGT.

FRANK LUMAZETTE,
DIED OF WOUNDS
Aug. 13, 1864.

57TH REGT.

H. ERSKINE BLACK,
Died Feb. 22, 1865.

57TH REGT.

URIAH BASSETT,
Killed Aug. 19, 1864.

ELISHA C. DAVENPORT,
Killed May 6, 1864.

HENRY M. FALES,
Killed May 6, 1864.

JOHN HANDLEY,
Killed May 6, 1864.

GEORGE THURSTON,
DIED OF WOUNDS
June 3, 1864.

4TH CAVALRY.

HORACE L. TRUESDELL,
DIED OF WOUNDS
Apr. 15, 1865.

ERECTED BY THE HOLDEN
SOLDIERS' MONUMENT
ASSOCIATION.
MDCCCLXXVI.

These four tablets bear the names of thirty soldiers, who gave their lives for their country. Thus, whether legally summoned and transacting the business of the town, or gathered for instruction or amusement, as well as when observing Memorial Day, the memorial of their fallen heroes is continually before the citizens, a constant incentive to noble deeds of patriotic self sacrifice.

The war entailed everywhere heavy expenses. The town of Holden paid for state aid to the families of soldiers during the war, which was afterwards reimbursed by the Commonwealth: in 1871, \$577.71; in 1862, \$2,293.11; in 1863, \$2,781.30; in 1864, \$2,546.70, and in 1865, \$1,800, making the total amount thus expended, \$9,998.82.¹ This, as has been said, was repaid. The expenditures of the town which were not repaid were even larger. The various items for military expenditures from 1861 to 1865 amount to a no less sum than \$11,752.33.

As early as 1847, preliminary surveys were made for a railroad from the west into Worcester, passing through the western part of the town and down the valley of Tatnuck brook. But all this and other later schemes from various directions for many years came to nought. In 1869, the Boston, Barre and Gardner Railroad was chartered. In order to secure the building of this road through the central village, with the advantages resulting to other parts of the town from this course, Holden took stock to the extent of five per cent. of its valuation, amounting to \$44,800. The road was immediately built, being opened for passenger traffic, September 4th, 1871. Later it was extended from its junction with the Worcester and Nashua Railroad to the Union Station in Worcester, and also northward to Winchendon. The railroad facilities thus secured were important, not to say indispensable, to the development or even the continuance of the prosperity of the town. Unfortunately, however, the road was financially weak, and after a time absolutely crippled. In an annual report of the Directors (1874), they said: "The road was started, and has been run thus

¹ A History of Massachusetts in the Civil War, by William Schouler, Boston, 1876, vol 2, p. 656.

far, under great disadvantages as compared with other roads terminating in Worcester. It has been built without adequate subscriptions to the stock, and was thus obliged to pay interest in advance of income, and was also unable to provide sufficient land for terminal accommodations before the value had risen in consequence of its construction." In 1876, the early train to Worcester, the promise of which had been a chief inducement held out to this town to secure its subscription, was withdrawn, and, in spite of the protests of the town, it was not restored till 1883, when its restoration was ordered by the State Board of Railroad Commissioners. The withdrawal of this important train was a serious detriment to the interests of the town, which, in the judgment of not a few thoughtful observers, it has not even yet wholly outlived, and which the permanent restoration of the train did not make good. The stock, which, according to the sanguine representations of the projectors of the road, and the expectations of many citizens, was to become within a very few years a dividend-paying investment, was held, without receiving any income therefrom, until 1885, when it was exchanged for stock in the Fitchburg Railroad, which had become the lessee of the Boston, Barre and Gardner Railroad, at the rate of ten shares of the latter for one of the former. The Fitchburg stock was soon sold at the rate of \$125 per share.

The Massachusetts Central Railroad, extending from Boston to Northampton, passes through Holden. The town gave no aid to the building of this road. It was finally opened for traffic late in 1886. The Boston and Maine Railroad has leased it, and it is managed as a part of the system of railroads controlled by that corporation. It furnishes valuable facilities and communications to the whole northern part of the town.

The rebuilding of the town house has already been mentioned. In 1876, it was decided to thoroughly repair the building, which had stood with little done to it since its erection in 1836. It was enlarged by the addition of twenty six feet to its length, and the whole edifice was completely remodeled. Plans for the alterations were furnished by James E. Fuller of

Worcester. The Committee in charge of the work were Ethan Davis, William Howe; Gates Chapman, Alfred Chaffin and William H. Walker. The work was done under contract by Waldo E. Austin, and the total cost, aside from the Memorial Tablets, was \$4,292.42. The town has thus provided for its public uses an exceedingly comfortable and tasteful as well as convenient hall.

For the last few years difficult financial problems have faced the town and taxed the wisdom of its administrators. The great charges imposed on the town treasury by the Rebellion; the debt incurred to secure the Boston, Barre and Gardner Railroad; the rebuilding of the Town Hall; the purchase of the school-houses from the districts by the town in 1869, at a cost of \$8,762; the building, rebuilding and repairing of school-houses; and large highway expenses, for building important and costly new roads as well as keeping up the old, all this has been a severe strain on the finances of a town, the valuation of which has never much exceeded a million dollars. The net debt of the town reached its maximum in 1877, when the liabilities of the town were reported to be \$64,357.17, and the available means, \$3,589.51, leaving a net indebtedness of \$60,767.66, and \$4,186.89 was reported as having been paid the same year as interest. This debt was steadily though not rapidly decreased. In 1886, notes amounting to \$40,000 and bearing interest, \$25,000 at five and one-half per cent. and \$15,000 at seven per cent., were taken up. A loan of \$34,000 was made at four per cent. and from the sale of the railroad stock, taxation and other sources, the rest of the indebtedness was paid off. The sum of \$2,000 is now annually paid on this loan, and it is expected that in 1905 the whole indebtedness will be removed.

Until 1889, the town poor had been cared for in the usual way upon the farm by a superintendent. The number of paupers cared for on the farm had been steadily lessening, so that the cost of support had relatively, if not absolutely, increased. In view of these facts, citizens of Holden took the initiative in seeking a better system. As the result of free discussion,

Holden, Hubbardston, Princeton and Paxton associated themselves for the joint care of their paupers. This association leased of the town of Holden its Poor Farm, and has supported the paupers of the several towns at a greatly lessened relative cost.

There have not been many public celebrations in town of especial note. Independence Day was celebrated in 1842 by a Temperance picnic ; in 1855 by a public demonstration, a procession, an oration by Mr. Homer B. Sprague and a dinner at which six hundred sat down, followed by toasts and speech-making ; in 1871 by an excursion on the railroad which had not yet been opened for traffic ; and in 1875 by a general picnic with fireworks in the evening. The various events of the civil war had constant echoes among the people of Holden. Thus the report of the surrender of Lee's army was welcomed Friday evening, April 7th, 1865, with the ringing of bells, the firing of cannon and a general illumination. On the following Sunday, Dr. Paine preached from the text, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen." On the succeeding Friday there was a repetition of the salutes and illumination, and also a public meeting with addresses in both the afternoon and the evening. Immediately, however, as all over the land, joy was turned to public lamentation by the news of the assassination of President Lincoln. Memorial Day has been regularly observed under the management of the local Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. There have been frequent courses of lectures under the auspices of the Soldiers' Memorial Association, the Library Association and the High School. For a quarter of a century town fairs were held each October with few exceptions.

The most remarkable event of the half century was the Cyclone of 1871. About half past four on Sunday afternoon, June 11th, a violent wind, accompanied by thunder and lightning, swept a path of destruction through the town. The storm was seen nearly a mile away. It was described as looking like a whirling funnel-shaped column of dust, filled with the limbs of trees and other wreckage, which were continually shooting up in the middle, and as steadily falling

in a stream at the side. Its course was traced from Spencer, through Paxton, Holden and West Boylston into Boylston, where its power seemed spent. It mowed a swath about ten rods wide, in which large pine trees were snapped off like pipe-stems. Coming over the hill from Paxton, it first struck the place of Lewis Martin, who was in his house together with his family, including five small children. The house and barn were completely destroyed, and the inmates were scattered. An infant was found in the cellar in a barrel surrounded with bricks. The whole family escaped, however, with nothing more serious than bruises. From here the tornado swept through the woods, across the pond, over the hill down into the village of Holden. It first shattered the barn of Samuel Griffin, and partially or completely unroofed the houses of Hastings Newell, Marius S. Cooly and Samuel Fiske. The houses and barns of Anson Lakin, Michael McLaughlin and Mrs. Ira Broad, lying next, were wrecked, as was also the house of S. D. Hubbard, in part, and his carpenter shop completely. In this shop Charles E. Burnett was caught and held beneath the timbers of the ruin, but fortunately escaped with a broken arm and severe cuts and bruises. The house of Ebenezer R. Parker was entirely destroyed. The house was taken up by the wind, moved about its width and dropped a heap of peices. Both Mr. and Mrs. Parker were injured, the arm of the latter being dislocated. Other damage was done to various buildings in its course, the chimneys of the Roman Catholic church were thrown down, and the belfry of the Baptist church was severely wrenched, and even a stone wall in the path of the cyclone was overturned. A horse was found in a neighboring garden, still tied to the plank to which he had been fastened in the stable, but without a bruise or a mark upon him. The whole ruin in the village was wrought within the space of two minutes. The pecuniary damage in Holden was estimated at the time as amounting to twelve or fifteen thousand dollars. While the ruin and loss was thus serious, it is to be noted that, had the cyclone swerved but a few rods to the south, it would have wrought a far more costly work of destruction,

and would almost certainly have left death as well as destruction in its path.

Whoever looks backward over this half-century readily sees that no similar period in the history of the town has brought such changes as the last. Holden has shared the progress of the times. The railroad, the telegraph and the telephone have come. There have been equal changes within the town. The processes and products of agriculture have been very greatly modified by the introduction of machinery and the competition of the great west. Manufacturing has been extensively developed. The ideas and habits of the people in respect to travel, mail, books, music, household furniture and many other things of greater and lesser importance have been completely transformed. There has been a constant outflow of the native-born population to the cities and the west, and an even greater inflow from elsewhere, so that the town as a whole, especially in its villages, shows a decided growth. What Dr. Paine said of the period from 1833 to 1873, may be asserted with quite as striking truth of the period from 1841 to 1892. "Forty years ago [1833] railroading was in its infancy, and had done little to develop and stimulate business. There were not many centers of trade and industry, or of population, except in a few cities on the seaboard. Agriculture was the chief employment in rural districts; and having little Western competition, was profitable and generally satisfactory. There being little to invite young men and women to leave the localities of their nativity, they remained at or near their early homes. Seldom did the precious old homestead go out of the family, but descended from father to son for generations, and besides, those were days of larger families than are now usually found in our native American homes. The result of this state of things was a country population in almost every place, at least holding its own and in most localities increasing. . . . Such essentially was the state of things in this place at the commencement of my pastorate. There was not then a foreigner in town. . . . Probably there are not now more than twenty-five dwelling houses (cer-

tainly less than thirty) in the entire town, occupied by those, or their descendants, who inhabited them at the time of my settlement. The family name has gone from them, and not a few have changed ownership many times. This is a marvelous change compared with the preceding periods of same length. It would doubtless more nearly accord with the facts, to reverse the ratio, and say that less than thirty dwellings, during any preceding forty years, went out of the family and lost the family name. . . . But let it by no means be understood that all changes, which have occurred, should be put to the account of *loss*. Many of them have materially swelled the column of *gain*. This is doubtless true to a greater extent here than in many places where the percentage of change has been the same as ours.”¹

¹ A Memorial Discourse by Rev. William Paine, D. D., on the Fortieth Anniversary of his pastoral connection with the Congregational Church in Holden, October 24th, 1873, pp. 10, 11.

CHAPTER VI.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL.

PRELIMINARY MEETINGS. — COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS. — APPROPRIATION. — INVITATIONS. — MARSHALS. — DECORATIONS. — MUSIC. — SALUTE. — THE DAY. — EXERCISES AT THE CHURCH. — ADDRESS OF WELCOME. — HYMN. — POEM. — CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION. — DINNER. — SENTIMENTS. — RESPONSES BY MESSRS. WALKER, HARRINGTON, PINKERTON, FORBES, DAVIS, AND OTHERS.



THE first public agitation of the matter of celebrating the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Holden, occurred at a meeting of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Club, April 8th, 1891, when the question of such a celebration was made the subject of formal discussion for the afternoon session. As all who took part in the discussion favored a celebration, a committee of ten was chosen, with power, if though best, to call a general meeting of citizens. Such a call was at once issued, and a general meeting of citizens was convened in Memorial Hall, on the evening of April 18th. This meeting requested the Selectmen to call a town meeting at the earliest possible day to take formal action in reference to a celebration. A legal meeting of the town was held April 29th, when it was voted to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town, and a committee of arrangements, consisting of the Selectmen and ten other citizens, was appointed. As finally constituted, the committee consisted of

Messrs. Stillman F. Morse, Albert A. Metcalf, Emory Rogers, Henry W. Warren, Thomas Hennessy, David F. Estes, Israel M. Ball, William Howe, William D. Chenery, Waldo E. Austin, Charles E. Parker, George S. Graham and Gustavus S. Holden.

The committee of arrangements chose the first day of July as the date of the celebration, and recommended that the town appropriate the sum of three hundred dollars for the expenses of the anniversary. It was found necessary to secure a special act of authorization from the legislature for such appropriation. As soon as authorized, the town appropriated the sum named. About forty persons were specially invited to become the guests of the town on the occasion, and a general invitation was sent to all former residents and friends, whose addresses could be obtained.

The Marshal of the day was Edward W. Merrick, aided by the following Assistant Marshals; J. Frank Wood, Edward Fairbanks, Charles A. Dawson, Frank Parker, Charles T. Travis, Benjamin M. Chamberlin, William J. Prendergast and James H. Allen. Floral decorations for the Congregational church were arranged by the ladies of that congregation, for Memorial Hall by ladies of the Baptist congregation, and for the dining tent by ladies of the Roman Catholic parish. Music for the day was furnished by the Worcester Brass Band. At noon, a salute of one hundred and fifty guns was fired by Battery B, of Worcester, the cost of which (more than two hundred dollars) was defrayed by a popular subscription.

Wednesday, the first of July, dawned clear, bright, breezy, a perfect New England summer day.

“Day like a radiant jewel set
To dim all gems of lesser ray
In stately summer’s coronet.”

Ringling of the bells at sunrise ensured that the people were promptly astir. Trains and teams early brought hundreds of old residents and friends from other towns to join the citizens in the celebration of their anniversary. It was estimated

that two thousand persons shared in the festivities of the occasion.

At half past ten the Congregational church was thronged for the formal exercises of celebration. A large choir of the singers of the town opened the exercises by the singing of "Home Again." An Address of Welcome was then given by the President of the day, Mr. Stillman F. Morse, as follows :

Ladies and Gentlemen :—In behalf of the committee who have in charge this day's celebration, I extend to those of you who have in times past called the town home, a cordial greeting.

I also speak for all who are here to greet you, and I say that a more sincere welcome was never tendered, than we offer you on this occasion. Welcome back to home and its associations. Your old friends are glad to have you once more among them, and they join heart and hand in wishing you all the happiness which whole souled Americans can draw from the ample resources of the place, which they are wont to call their native town.

And to our guests and others I say, we in this same kindly spirit welcome you to our town, our hearts and our homes, assuring you that we shall ever remember with profound pleasure, the honor which you have conferred upon us by your presence here to-day.

Mr. Morse then called upon William Howe, D. D., of Cambridge, in his youth a resident of the town, to offer prayer.

The hymn written by J. H. Bancroft for the centennial celebration was sung by the choir without change, except that the first line was made to read thus :

"Thrice fifty years have passed away."

The Historical Address was given by Rev. David F. Estes.

The following Hymn, written by Mr. Solon P. Davis of Hartford, Conn., a native of Holden, was then sung.

"Eternal One, before whose sight
Time's centuries pass as motes in air,
Yet whose great love finds a delight
To fold the sparrow in its care,
Lo! all the centuries chant Thy praise;
And we, with ours, the anthem raise.

HISTORY OF HOLDEN.

God of our fathers ! whose strong hand
Has wrought Thy will from age to age,
Who turned their feet to this good land
And gave it for their heritage,—
We bless Thee for the love thus shown,
And for the gift made now our own.

Yet not alone for goodly land,
For mountain height and fertile vale,
For fields, where, by Thy kind command,
Seed time and harvest never fail,—
But for a better heritage
These songs of joy our lips engage.

For love of truth and virtues stern
Bred on these hills in earlier years,
For freedom's watchfires set to burn
By faith that had no room for fears,—
We thank Thee in these later days,
And lift our hearts in grateful lays.

For love to God and love to man ;
Self-sacrifice for others' good ;
For growing heed to Thy great plan
Which seals the human brotherhood,—
Our Father, ours as well as theirs,
We bless Thee in these fruitful years.

Oh, may the virtues of the past
Survive in us of later time,
While larger faith and love forecast
The glory of that hour sublime,
When right shall conquer every wrong,
And heaven and earth sing one glad song.

The Poem which follows was then most effectively recited by the author, Mrs. Georgia Allen Peck, of Boston, herself a native of Holden.

I.

Fair mother, on this festal day,—
Day like a radiant jewel set
To dim all gems of lesser ray
In stately summer's coronet,—
To hold proud natal jubilee,
Lo ! wandering children turn to thee.

II.

How wide so e'er our steps may roam,
However full our fateful days,
Fair though our chosen foster home,
Thy honored call our spirit sways ;
From distant plain, from surging sea,
With glad accord, we come to thee.

III.

We come, our eyes by love made keen,—
We gaze upon thy tranquil grace,
The record of a life serene
Depicted on thy placid face.
No trace of change can love descry ;
Destroying time hath passed thee by.

IV.

Still, as of old, doth towering hill
Uphold its lofty forest crown,
While flowering slopes their sweets distil,
As hill to vale curves gently down.
Still songsters sing in leafy bowers
The songs they sung in childhood's hours.

V.

The current of thy restless streams
Flows tireless on to seek the sea ;
Industry, many-handed, teems
Along their banks,—their waters free
O'ersweep man's barriers, rushing fast
On,—ever on,—yet never past,

VI.

Fresh fields of fragrant, new mown hay,
To passing breeze their sweetness lend;
O'er verdant land, now sunbeams play,
Now soft the cooling showers descend.
Glad Plenty smiles 'mid fruit and leaves,
Foretelling autumn's golden sheaves.

VII.

In sheltered vale, on sunny hill,
Old homesteads stand, in tranquil state.
Let passing generations still
Keep those dear walls inviolate,—
Guard, gracious town, these homes of thine
Each stands, to loyal hearts, a shrine.

VIII.

And hold, we pray, in deference meet,
Secure from ruthless hand of time,
Those plainer doors, where childish feet
Up Wisdom's steep's essay'd to climb.
They stand to-day—if taper lights—
Yet shimmering to the upper heights.

IX.

One loved those simple halls of yore,
And now, behold a massive tower,
A stately pile, a broader door,
Stand witness to a filial dower.
The bread once cast upon the sea,
Returns, a hundred fold, to thee!

X.

Thy sister churches, side by side,
Their varied paths to heaven urge;
Rely on each unerring guide,—
Above their spires the lines converge!
One sidelight from eternity,
And rival creeds must cease to be,

XI.

The rolling years their record keep
On marble shaft and grassy mound.
One after one, to death's chill sleep
Our dear ones pass,—yon hallowed ground
A Mecca stands, where oft the heart
With tender memory dwells apart.

XII.

Yet, living faces smile once more ;
Old playmates pause, love ne'er outgrown.
To-day shall magic touch restore
Again unto our hearts our own ;
Time, change and death are powerless still,
When mystic chords of memory thrill.

XIII.

Lo here, lo there, a friend we name,—
Like scattered rays in one they blend ;
Behold, the dear old town we claim
Our friend, nay more, our father's friend :
Faithful, though fortune pass us by,
Steadfast when stormy seas roll high.

XIV.

O Life, anon with smile or frown,
With tender touch or barbed steel,
Thou liftest up, or hurlest down
Remorseless, 'neath thine iron heel.
With all thou hast, with all thou art,
Still dost thou lack the mother heart.

XV.

So, gilded treasure of the mine,—
Idol ornate, with feet of clay—
Before thy glittering, hollow shrine
Vainly we kneel, in vain we pray.
To soul's deep need, to heart's lone cry,
Thy empty ring makes vain reply.

XVI.

And Fame, around whose honored board,
Pale votaries press, ambition-thrilled,
Too late we learn thy feasts afford
But Dead Sea apples, ashes filled;
Thy liveries bring nor warmth nor glow
When biting blasts o'ersweep life's snow.

XVII.

No gold, no gain, no fleeting cheer,
A cordial to the soul can prove,
Lifting to Hope's glad atmosphere,
Like kindly joys of kindred love.
This tried and trusted loyalty
We find, O, mother town, in thee!

XVIII.

A debt to busy time we owe—
To time, that fain would make thee old!
Lo, worn and faded records show
Thy second century half told,—
Again among thy laurel leaves
Its peerless flower the century weaves.

XIX.

As tides that sweep the shrinking sand,
Stern though their mighty billows be,
Yet scatter on the barren strand
The treasures of a boundless sea—
So passing years, with footsteps fleet,
Have poured their treasures at thy feet.

XX.

Unfaltering, thy trust in God,
Untarnished still thy spotless fame,
Unscathed by heaven's chastening rod
Of pestilence, or flood, or flame—
Mighty, when there was none to save,
God blessed thee, in the land He gave,

XXI.

He blessed thee, and He blesseth still.

Man's days like shadows shall decline,

Death work his stern relentless will,

While centuries pass and make no sign.

Yet happy shall that people be,

Who trust, eternal God, in thee !

After singing the old hymn, " Let children hear the mighty deeds," the exercises at the church were closed with the benediction by Rev. Henry C. Fay of Somerville.

While these exercises were going on in the church, other exercises of peculiar interest and importance were going on in Memorial Hall. By concerted arrangement between the committee of arrangements and the school committee, provision had been made for a special celebration for the children of the public schools. About ten o'clock, to the number of nearly five hundred, they were formed in procession on the common, each school being led by its teacher, and marched to the music of the band to their assigned places in the hall. Each pupil wore a badge of garnet-colored ribbon bearing the inscription " Holden Public Schools " with the dates " 1741 " and " 1891 " enclosing the lamp of learning. So much of the hall as was not occupied by the children was quickly crowded with delighted spectators and listeners. After an interesting program of singing, recitations and declamations by representatives of the different schools, Mr. Charles E. Stevens, town superintendent of schools, gave an address which he entitled " Bits of Town History ", being a brief review of the history of Holden, carefully adapted to the comprehension of his audience. Some weeks before, the school committee had offered to the pupils of the grammar schools, three prizes for excellence in written composition, as shown by an essay on some point in the history of the town. About thirty essays had been handed in, and those found most worthy were read at the close of the exercises. Liberal lunches had been prepared and placed in boxes, one of which was given to each child. After ample time had been allowed for the enjoyment of this lunch, the children

once more formed in procession, and marched to the top of the hill, back of the village, where Battery B was counting in thunder tones the age of Holden. After a short time the procession was broken up and the children were dismissed, to remember all their lifetime the share which they had in the celebration of Holden's one hundred and fiftieth anniversary.

After a brief interval spent in social greetings and reminiscences, a procession of invited guests, citizens and friends formed upon the common and marched around to the place where the large dining tent had been erected on the lawn, somewhat in the rear of the "Damon Memorial" building. Plates had been laid for nine hundred and fifty, and all were taken. The Divine blessing was invoked at the tables by Rev. George W. Kinney.

After ample justice had been done to the dinner, Mr. Morse introduced Mr. Alonzo K. Learned as Toastmaster, who spoke as follows :

"It is fitting that the morning of this anniversary day should be ushered in by the ringing of bells and other demonstrations of joy ; that these should be supplemented by the more formal exercises of the morning, the cordial words of welcome, the able and scholarly historical address, the graceful poem, the admirably planned and executed entertainment for the children, the service of song and prayer lifting our thoughts from earth to heaven ; fitting also that we should announce at high noon by a salute of one hundred and fifty guns the completion of one hundred and fifty years of organized municipal life.

"As we look upon this group of distinguished men who have honored the invitation of your committee by their presence, we are confident that those exercises to which I referred are about to be crowned by words of pleasant reminiscence and of wit, by the eloquent appeal to consecration to the noblest duties of citizenship and to the purest ideals of duty and of life.

"It is pardonable in us as citizens of Holden, standing as we do to-day on an eminence of one hundred and fifty years, if we do exult somewhat in the record of those years, and feel, as we look forth, that we are quite a part of the great republic of the United States. For, before the signal gun of the revolution sounded

on Lexington green; before the Declaration of Independence was written by Jefferson; before that august body of men assembled in Philadelphia to frame the charter of our liberties; here among the hills, men were trying the principles of self-government, working out the governmental problem of the ages, and in training for that heavier struggle in which the great republic had its birth.

“And yet we acknowledge to-day our allegiance to the government and propose as the first sentiment of the afternoon:—

1. “*The United States of America*: Extensive in domain, exhaustless in resources, the embodiment at once of a wise conservatism and a generous aspiration, she stands to-day grand and free and confident in her strength to solve the intricate social and political problems of the present and of the future.

2. “*The State of Massachusetts*: From the earliest date in her history, the abode of an honest, hard-working, liberty-loving people, ‘the home of scholars and the nurse of arms,’ potent in influence in the past, but never more so than at the present.

“I have the pleasure of introducing a gentleman long and prominently identified with the industries of the state; a gentleman deeply interested in the cause of education, and who, in the Congress of the United States, fought in behalf of the hard-working people of this town, of this state, of this nation, a hard fight for hard money, and came off victorious—Hon. Joseph H. Walker of Worcester.”

Mr. Walker was received with applause as he rose to reply. He spoke as follows in part:

“No words that have been said, or shall be said, could be such a tribute to the character of the people of Holden as is the gathering of a thousand persons to celebrate the virtues of their ancestors. Those who take no interest in ancestral virtues generally have but little virtue to hand down to their own descendants. Massachusetts, from the days of Plymouth Rock to the present time, has put man before all else, and her present high position is due to this course. Well did her great war governor, himself a splendid example of her noble sons, say: ‘I know not what record awaits me in the future, but I was never mean enough to despise a man because he was poor, or ignorant, or black,’ Massachusetts has always resented any

legislation that would result in injury to her humblest citizen. Such injury has been resented at whatever cost of blood or treasure necessary."

Mr. Learned then gave :

3. "*The City of Worcester*: On this jubilee day we would not forget that this town was originally a part of the now flourishing city of Worcester. We rejoice in its present and prospective growth, we rejoice that it is the seat of an already renowned university, that its public schools and higher institutions of learning have a national reputation, that within its borders resides a highly intelligent, moral and religious people. I have the pleasure of presenting to you the official representative of the city of Worcester, His Honor, Mayor Francis A. Harrington."

Mayor Harrington was cordially received, and in response said in substance :

"The interests of Holden and Worcester are identical. The mother town is proud of Holden and her record. She is proud of the position her citizens have taken. Worcester appreciates the many sons and daughters that she has received from this town and is glad to join her other neighbors in speaking words of congratulation, and in hoping that Holden's two hundred and fiftieth anniversary may be as successful as this."

In presenting the next sentiment, Mr. Learned said :

4. "There are many present here to-day who vividly recall the centennial celebration of the town. We desire to connect this anniversary with that of the fathers, and therefore I propose to use two of the sentiments then offered, the first of which is, '*Honor to the Memory of our Mothers*, who presided over the distaff and the loom. May their refined and beautiful daughters be as much distinguished for their industry, energy and virtue.' To this beautiful sentiment, calling to our remembrance the presence, the labors, the sweet and blessed influence of mothers 'who have passed into the skies,' I have the pleasure of calling upon a gentleman who has the reputation of being the very pink of speechmakers, Hon. Alfred S. Pinkerton of Worcester."

Mr. Pinkerton said in response :

“When I saw the memorial which had been erected to commemorate the loyalty of the men who stained Malvern Hill and other battle fields with blood, I remembered that the women of this town had as noble a record as their brothers who went forth to do and die. I am very glad to note Holden’s progress, but when it counts the elements of its success it should not be forgotten that the mothers have largely aided in securing it. Massachusetts is proud of her women. They have stood in the front rank of every reform that has been undertaken. Nor is it too much to say that they are the highest type of her civilization and the richest product of her soil.”

The succeeding toast was prefaced with the following words :

5. “In the operations of government, the judiciary department must ever hold and exercise important functions; for ‘Justice,’ Webster says, ‘is the ligament which holds civilized beings and civilized nations together.’ Whoever, then, labors to extend justice between man and man, whoever from the vantage ground of official station—

‘Poises the cause in Justice’s equal scales,
Whose beam stands sure, whose rightful cause prevails—’

‘connects himself in name, and fame and character with that which is and must be as durable as the frame of human society.’ *The Judiciary of Massachusetts*. To respond, I call upon the Hon. William T. Forbes, judge of probate and insolvency for Worcester county, a lineal descendant of Rev. Joseph Avery, second minister of the town, whom Dr. Damon, in his centennial address, characterizes as ‘pre-eminently a peacemaker.’”

Judge Forbes, in his response, described the administration of justice in olden times. Ecclesiastical administration of justice was a feature of those days. Those old ministers who sat in judgment, did much to shape the course of events.

Mr. Learned then said :

6. “You are all familiar with the beautiful picture drawn by Goldsmith in ‘The Deserted Village’ of the ‘Village Preacher.’ Yet there is scarcely a town within the limits of the Commonwealth

but has been blessed by the life and labors of just such men as Goldsmith so vividly portrays;—men who came bearing the highest credentials of scholarship, of character and of piety,—content to spend their lives in the holy offices of kindness, of charity and of religion. Rev. Joseph Davis, Rev. Joseph Avery, Rev. Dr. William P. Paine, men of blessed influence and blessed memory! They rest from their labors, their bodies slumber amidst the voiceless congregations to whom they ministered, but their works do follow them.

“To the sentiment, *The Christian Minister in the Commonwealth*, I have the pleasure of calling to respond a venerable clergyman, for two periods pastor of the Baptist Church in this town, Rev. Josiah H. Tilton, of Reading.”

Mr. Tilton replied appropriately, and subsequently Rev. William Howe, D. D., paid an especial tribute to “Parson Avery.”

The next sentiment was,—

7. “*The Prominent Men in Worcester County Fifty Years Ago*: Fifty years ago were gathered in yonder hall the men active in the affairs of the town, Col. Samuel Damon, Charles Chaffin, Silas Flagg, William Metcalf and their associates, and around them were others conspicuous in the life and thought of the present city of Worcester. They sought, as we are seeking to-day, to honor the founders of this town. Those men have passed away; but there was seen upon the streets of Worcester until within a few years the venerable form of one of the men participating in the exercises of that occasion. I refer to the late Hon. Isaac Davis, a descendant of Lieut. Simon Davis, whose ashes lie entombed in yonder churchyard. ‘In the sons the sires survive,’ and I have the honor to introduce to you Hon. Edward L. Davis of Worcester.”

Mr. Davis responded most fittingly, referring especially to the part taken in the affairs of Holden by his ancestors.

8. “The echoes of the cannonading of Sumter had scarcely died away, when, upon yonder green, was seen a body of men ready to leave home and kindred, and engage in the perils of war. Their promptness and alacrity was characteristic of the history of the town during that prolonged struggle. We have with us this

afternoon one who knew the soldiers of Holden in the camp, on the march, on the battlefield, in the dangerous and deadly assault, one endeared to them by many acts of personal kindness, by many perils passed with them, by honors and results of victory shared with them, and who is prepared to speak of *The Soldiers of Holden in the Civil War* most eloquently. Soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic, women of the Relief Corps, ladies and gentlemen, I present to you Gen. Augustus B. R. Sprague of Worcester."

Gen. Sprague was received with three cheers by the audience, led by the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic, many of whom had served under him, and who attended the dinner and the exercises in the church by special invitation in a body. He paid a fine tribute to the patriotism of the town, and the bravery and worth of its soldiers. "Holden's soldiers were to be found in the foremost ranks of war, an honor to the town both living and dying."

The sentiment, "*The Schools of Massachusetts*," was responded to by Hon. John W. Dickinson, Secretary of the State Board of Education; "*The Industries of Holden*," by Hon. Martin V. B. Jefferson; "*Personal Reminiscences*," by Thomas Cleland, M. D., of New York City, and to the closing sentiment, "*The Gallant Sons of our Venerable Fathers*," repeated from the centennial, Hon. John R. Thayer responded. Brief speeches were also made by Rev. William A. Lamb of Newton, and Mr. Solon P. Davis of Hartford, Conn., and the exercises of the day closed with the benediction by Rev. David F. Estes.

CHAPTER VII.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCHES.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. — BAPTIST CHURCH. — ST. MARY'S
PARISH. — METHODIST, UNIVERSALIST AND ADVENT WORK.
— SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE CHURCHES.



NE of the chief purposes of the founders of Holden in securing its incorporation, was to have the gospel preached among them, and the first business of the town, after the choice of its municipal officers, was to arrange for obtaining a minister. Although the meeting-house was still unfinished, neither pulpit nor pews being in their place, it would appear that meetings were regularly held. Months, however, necessarily passed before a pastor was secured for the little flock, "like lambs in a large place".

The following is the record of the organization of the church and the ordination of its young pastor :

" December. 22. 1742.

" The following Churches being present with their Rev^d Pastors & Delegates, Viz. The Chh in *Lancaster Shrewsbury Worcester & Rutland*, a Church of Christ this Day was gathered here, & the Reverend Mr. *Joseph Davis* was Ordained to the Work of the Gospel Ministry and to the Pastoral office and Charge of this Church.

" The Rev^d Mr. *Buckminster* began with Prayer.

" The Rev^d Mr. *Burr* Preached from Isaiah. 58. 1.

" The Rev^d Mr. *Prentice* gave the Charge.

" The Rev^d Mr. *Cushing* the Right hand of Fellowship.

“The Persons embodied belonged to the following Churches

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|---------------|
| 1 Simon Davis. | } | in Rutland. |
| 2 Joseph Davis. | | |
| 3 Cyprian Stevens. | | |
| 4 Samuel Hubbard. | | |
| 5 David Brown. | | |
| 6 John Fletcher. | | |
| 7 William Nickols | | in Reading. |
| 8 John Biglo | | in Worcester. |
| 9 Jabez Harrington | | in Weston. |

“These produced their Letters Dismissory and Recommendatory before embodied.

“The following were recieved at the gathering of the Chh.

- 10 Samuel Pierce.
- 11 Jotham Biglo.
- 12 Samuel Heywood.
- 13 Joseph Hubbard, and
- 14 Amos Heywood.

“N. B. These were propounded some time before.”

It will be noticed that, very peculiarly, all the constituent members were men. There were doubtless godly and pious women in Holden then, as is shown by the fact that of the twelve members received within six months after the organization of the church, eleven were women.

No articles of faith were adopted at the constitution of the church, or for nearly seventy years after. The first business done by the church was to vote that “Persons be received into the chh. without a *Relation*”, that is, without a statement of personal religious experience. The church had a covenant under which were associated those who became regular members of the church, and were thus entitled to all its rights and privileges. Others, not desiring full membership, might “own the covenant”, as the phrase went, that is, assent publicly to its requirements and obligations, without, however, assuming them, and thus secure the baptism of their households. This was called “the half-way covenant”. During the time while this system was in force, one hundred and nineteen persons

“owned the covenant”. The original covenant of the church was as follows :

“The Church Covenant entred into Decemb^r 2 [22]. 1742.

“We whose Names are hereunto Subscribed (Inhabitants of *Holden*) apprehending ourselves called of God into the Chh-State of the Gospel :—

“Do first of all confess ourselves unworthy to be So highly favored of the Lord, and admire his free and rich Grace which calls us hereunto :—

“And then with humble Relyance and entire dependence on the Assistance of his Grace and holy Spirit therein promised for them, that, in a Sense of their own Inability to do *any* good thing, do humbly wait upon him for *all*, we do thankfully lay hold on his Covenant, and solemnly enter into Covenant with God and one with another according to God.

“We declare our Serious belief of the Christian Religion, as contained in the Sacred Scriptures, (acknowledging them to contain the whole revealed will of God concerning our Faith & Practice) heartily resolving to conform our Lives to the Rules of that holy Religion so long as we live.

“We give ourselves up to the Lord Jehovah, the Father, the Son, & the Holy Ghost, the only true and living God, and avouch him this Day to be our God and our Portion for ever

“We give up ourselves to the Blessed Jesus, who is the Lord Jehovah, and adhere to him as the Head of his People in the Covenant of Grace, and rely upon [him] as our Prophet & our Priest and our King, to bring us unto eternal Blessedness.

“We acknowledge our Everlasting and Indispensible Obligations to glorify God in all the Duties of a Godly, Sober, and righteous Life ; and particularly in the Duties of a Church State and a Body of People associated for an Obedience to him, in all the Ordinances of the Gospel : And we thereupon depend upon his gracious Assistance, for our faithful Discharge of the Duties thus Incumbent upon us.

“We Engage (with dependence upon his promised Grace & Spirit) to walk together as a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the Faith & Order of the Gospel, so far as we shall have the same revealed unto us ; conscientiously attending the Worship of God (in praying to him, Singing his praises, giving reverent Attention to his

Word read & Preached, according to his Institutions) the Sacraments of the New-Testament, the Discipline of his Kingdom, and all his holy Institutions in Communion one with another, and watchfully avoiding all Sinful Stumbling Blocks and Contentions, as becomes the Lord's People in Covenant with him.

"Att the Same Time we do also present our Offspring with us unto the Lord; purposing with his Help to do our part in the Method of a religious Education, that they may be the Lords

"And all this we do, flying to the Blood of the everlasting Covenant, for the pardon of our many Errors, and praying that the glorious Lord Jesus who is the Great Shepard would prepare and strengthen us for every good Work, to do his Will, working in us that which shall be well pleasing to him: To whom be glory for ever and ever. AMEN."¹

The ministry of Mr. Davis seems to have been quiet, but if judged, as it should be, according to the circumstances and by the standards of the day, to have been measurably successful. He speaks of himself as "through much infirmity (at least as to some of the time) preaching the gospel unto you". The increase in membership under his ministrations, if not rapid, was steady. Mr. Davis records: "The Church, when first embodied, consisted of fourteen males. In the first ten years of my ministry, it increased to more than sixty members; of which number there were more males than females; about thirty-two of them new members; the rest from other Churches: In which time of ten years, there died nine females, and not one male. Six persons had been dismissed to other Churches. At the end of twenty years the Church consisted of about seventy five members, and when I was dismissed, of eighty six; thirty eight males; forty eight females. The Church now consists of thirty three males, and forty six females. During the thirty years of my ministry there had been fifty four removed from us, some by dismission to other Churches, but mostly by death."² The pastoral ministrations of Rev. Mr. Davis in Holden ended in January, 1773. At a town meeting, January 26th, the town

¹ Church Records, vol. 1, pp. 1-3. ² Semi-Centennial Sermon, p. 20.

voted to "Dismiss the Late Rev^d. Mr. Davis our late Pastor agreeable to the Result of the Consil". So far as appears from the records, this action was taken at his own request. In January, 1775, the Church records state that he was dismissed and recommended to "a Chh lately erected in Ervingshire", but his home was among this people until his death, March 4th, 1799.

Twenty years later Mr. Davis said, "Soon after my leaving the Ministry among you, you were religiously concerned to have the Gospel Ministry resettled among you; and, before two years rolled away, found, and soon after settled, your present Pastor."¹ No records of the action of the Church can be found. From the town records, it appears that at the same meeting at which Mr. Davis was dismissed, Mr. Isaac Bigelow was invited, in concurrence with the Church to the vacant pastorate. The call would seem, however, to have been unsuccessful, and no similar action is recorded, until September 5th, 1774, when the town concurred with the Church in calling Mr. Joseph Avery. The terms of settlement were "one Hundred and thirty three pounds six shillings & eight pence L:m² as a Settlement for him and one half of s^d money to be paid in one year from his Answer and the other half in one year following and also Voted Sixty Six pounds thirteen Shillings & four pence L:m for his Annual Sallery during his Ministry. the said sum to include the Profits of the Ministerial Lands."

The records of the ordination of Mr. Avery read as follows :

"Decembr. 21st 1774 The following Churches being present by their Rev'd Pastors, & Delegates, viz the Church in Rutland, Worcester, 1st in Shrewsbury, Paxton, 1st in Dedham, 1st & 2nd in Brookfield, the Rev'd Joseph Avery was ordained here to y^e Work of the Gospel Ministry, & to the pastoral Office & Charge of this Chh. Rev'd Mr Buckminster gave y^e right hand of fellowship, the Rev'd Mr Sumner pray'd [Rev'd] Mr Haven preach'd. Rev'd Mr Maccarty gave y^e Charge."

¹ Semi-Centennial Sermon, p. 21. ² Lawful money.

Under Mr. Avery's ministrations occurred, in 1809 and 1810, the great religious awakening which long bore the name of "the first revival". "Such a general religious interest," says Dr. Paine, "was quite new, both to pastor and people, causing for a while considerable opposition, and awakening in the minds of the community much wonder and excitement at such new manifestations, of which they had heretofore been ignorant. Though the externals of religion had been well sustained, the vital principle had apparently almost died out. But little was thought of piety of heart, and now that the spirit of God was deeply moving the religious sensibilities, it almost of necessity occasioned great and even strange commotion. The result was most auspicious for vital piety in this place. The distinguishing type of religion experienced a marked change from that time. Those who have since been on the stage of action have been no strangers to revivals. Few places, indeed, have been more blest with special divine influences."¹ The rolls of the Church show that no less than ninety members were received in 1809 and 1810, and it is a noteworthy fact that among these converts were more men than women—forty-nine men, forty-one women. Again in 1817 there was a revival of nearly equal power, the number received to membership in that year being eighty-two.

Presumably it was owing to the quickening of religious sentiment due to "the first revival", that the custom of "owning the covenant" was given up,² "with this exception, that those who have already owned the covenant shall not be cut off from any privileges they have possessed heretofore", and, furthermore, that a confession of faith was for the first time adopted.³ This confession was drawn up by Mr. Avery, but every trace of this document, which would now possess peculiar interest, had completely vanished, even during his own pastorate.⁴ A

¹ Thirtieth Anniversary Sermon, pp. 10, 11. ² December 18th, 1809.

³ January 4th, 1811.

⁴ "1824. June 3. . . . As no copy of the articles of faith which this church have received can be found". Church records, vol. 2, p. 80.

stricter method in regard to receiving candidates for church membership was at the same time adopted.¹

One difficult matter, which required all the abundant tact of Mr. Avery to manage, was the change which came in the latter part of the eighteenth century in respect to church music, and other elements of public worship. To place the following records in order will show with sufficient distinctness the gradual modification of sentiment.

“ 1785 Augst 24th At a Chh meeting appointed to consult what is proper to be done relative to singing in the publick worship of God—

Voted 1 / that Dea. Haven set such tunes as he shall think fit & proper—omitting for the present those tunes which are found particularly disagreeable to a number of the Chh—& to sing by reading of two Lines of y^e psalm.

2 / The Question was put whether the reading of the psalm be omitted at the last time of singing on every Sabbath 11 Votes for & 11 against it.—”

“ 1786 March 12. Voted that the Singers be desired to sing such tunes as may be sung with reading two Lines only, at those times of singing which immediately precede the sermons & the Chh will acquiesce in their singing without reading at the beginning of the exercises, & the last time in the afternoon—& further that this be continued till tis otherwise signified to them by the Chh. or Town, or each of them.”

¹ Voted, January 4th, 1811, “That whenever any persons shall [present] themselves as candidates for admission into [the Church], if they feel * willing for a publick examination [the pastor] will then notify the Church of the time when, & the [place] where this examination shall be & if those that [shall] convene on that occasion shall be satisfied as to [them] & as a body consent to their being receiv’d into the [Church,] they may then be admitted the first convenient [time] that shall afterwards present; but if any wishing admission into the Church shall find a diffi[culty in] their minds as to such publick examination [& the pastor] shall judge it expedient that they should be a[dmitted] agreeable to the mode of admission heretofore [practised] in this Church there shall be full liberty in ad[mitting] such candidates on this point,”

“ 1786 Sept: 4th at a Chh. meeting—Voted

1 / to signify to the Singers that the Chh desire that all such of them, as are able to lead in the Singing, would do it as occasion may require—

2 / that 'tis the earnest request of the Chh that the Singers would omit the singing of Milford & Hart[ford] & in Tunes that are repeated, that, if it may be, they would omit the Repeats till the last time of going over the tune.”

“ 1787 Oct: 17. The Chh met.

1 / put to vote whether the Chh will make any alterations as to the present mode of singing.

eight votes for, & eight against it—”

“ 1788 Sept: 25 at a Chh meeting

Voted 1 / that the Chh acquiesce in having the Singing carried on in the publick worship, without having the psalm read by the Deacons any part of the day.—

2 / that if a bible, with explanations of the scriptures, shall be procur'd,—that a portion out of the same may be read in lieu of the singing at the beginning of the exercises that part of the year when 'tis usual to sing five times in a day.—”¹

¹ The following correspondence between Mr. Avery and one of his parishioners, who had become disaffected on account of the music in church, deserves reprinting, as illustrating both the intensity of the feeling prevailing at the time, and Mr. Avery's patience and tact.

“ Holden Jan: 2^d 1790

“Dear Sirs / We are not insensible that true benevolence is a mark of the Christian, & the glory of the christian character, & as this divine principle awakens the sincerest wishes, in those that possess it, for the happiness of men in general, so especially for those they stand in particular relation to. This principle we would wish to cherish, & feel its happy influence. How then can we find, without concern that two of our Brethren, whom we loved, & respected, have withdrawn from our communion? Were we conscious of a wilful departure from the line of duty that had occasion'd this, we should charge ourselves as highly culpable, & consider the call to penitence as loud, & pressing. But tho' we have done nothing designedly to offend our Brethren; we must still feel a sorrow, that they should think themselves

In 1822, Mr. Avery was constrained to withdraw from the the active duties of the pastorate, retaining the title of pastor, and receiving a part of the salary which had been paid him, which part, however, seemed to him most pitifully meagre.

justified in deserting our communion; & we should esteem it a happiness, if we could now suggest any thing that might now influence them to a cordial return thereto. Here then we add, that we presume the Church as such cannot be justly charg'd with acting inconsistent with rule & order. True it is, that they have voted *one* thing as to the mode of singing in the Congregation at one time, & something different at another; But have not publick bodies of Christians an undoubted right to do this, if they think it wise, & best. The Church as a body wished to have found you gratified & pleas'd; but thought they could not wisely go counter to what was the sentiment of the majority. & shall this circumstance separate us on earth, when we are, or ought to be *all* bound to the heavenly world? Is it not best to strive after union in the great essentials of religion, & to be candid, & forbearing as to lesser matters. Let us suppose then now for [a] moment, that in the true Spirit of Candor you were return'd, & stately & cheerfully attended with us, that when the mere musick of the voice was not so pleasing as you could wish, that then your minds were deeply fix'd on the great, & interesting truths contain'd in the sacred psalm, or hymn, & your souls were rising in secret harmony to God on the wings of faith, & love. Would you not reflect on such opportunities afterwards, with the sincerest pleasure, & regard them as far from being lost? & would not this be some satisfaction that your example invited others to the house of God, & table of Christ? We hope you feel a solicitude for the interests of Religion, & how can we expect these to flourish if we neglect the publick worship, & ordinances of God? Let it then be our united prayer that the great adversary of souls, who delights to sow discord among Brethren, may not prevail against us. Our Stay together on earth is short, & transient indeed; Let us away then with coldness, estrangement, & disaffection, put on as the elect of God, bowels of mercy, tenderness & humbleness of mind, & the Lord conduct us all safely to that place, where imperfection, error, & human frailty are forever at an end, & where we may with infinite satisfaction harmonize in Songs of praise to him that sitteth on the throne, & the Lamb forever.

"The Church was stopt on this day & it appear'd that they were desirous that the above should besent to Mr — & Mr —

"N. B. the Chh would wish that if they have any thing to object against any individual of the Church they would converse with them & endeavour to satisfy themselves"

"Holden Jany 11th 1791

"Rev'd. Sir I Recd, Sumthing from Sum person & take it to be from your Self But Do Not Know by your Signing because their is no Name to it: it bears Date January ye. 2^d. 1790. whether it is threw mistake or Designedly i know not: on first Consideration I thought to take no Notis of it: but on a

The books of the Church contain only the record of the appointment of a committee to confer with him as to calling a mutual council. He shared in the services of the public installation of his colleague, and continued to live in his old

Second consideration I thought I would: The Letter which I Rec^d. Seems to Set forth that true benevolence is the mark & the glory of the Sincerest wishes in those that possess it: to which I answer & Say that all that is Very Good: and Not to Say any thing further on true Christian benevolence or charrrity, towards our Brethren: I am Charged with Deserting the Sacrement of the Lord's Supper and Signify without any Just Cause: hear I must add that it is Suggested the Church have Voted Sumthing Differant at one time to what they Did at another and Supposed it would have ben Satisfactory to me but what you Grounded your hope upon I Can not Conceive of: the mode of Singing which is So much offensive to me that I Can not Glorify God nor Edifyed myself: & further the Church have Gon Conterary to the Covenant ownied be Every Brother of the Church: in the Covenant are these words promising Carefully to avoid all Sinful Stumbleing Blocks & Contentions to metion no more on the Covenant: the mere musick as you Call it. Is the Block in my way as your Self & the Church are Sensable of: this mere Musick has No melody at all in it: and further I would wish to se the Carrecter Discribed in in the Letter Subscribed to mr.— & myself truly and faithfully observed & Not Lord it over any ones Conscience: I answer for my Self and No other. Rev^d. Sir I Could with all freedom Discourse with you on these matters if you will Come to my House as my my wife & one of my daughters are Not able to attend the Publick worship they Seem to be Very Desirous that you Should pay them a Visit & if you please preach a Lecture on their Desire:

Holden Jan^y 15th 1791

“Dear Sir / I received a line from you of the 11th of Jan^y 1791, & by this I was sorry to learn that there were some mistakes in a line lately sent to you, & Mr ———. It should have bore date Jan^y 2^d 1791 & I meant to have informed you in my own name that It was the general desire of those of the Church that were at meeting on that day, that what was contain'd in that letter should be sent to you, & Mr ——— as coming from them. It has been matter of pain to me to find your seat, & that of Mr ——— vacant at our communion. I have done nothing personally, & designedly inconsistent with the most tender solicitude for your truest interest. Your edification, & improvement is an object of my sincere desire: But at the same time, I must freely, & honestly say that I cannot think in some respects as you do: Supposing the greater part of the Church had thought with you as to the singing, chosen the tunes that you like best, & to have the psalm read as is most agreeable to you; [&] that some of the Church had complain'd, & said that they [c]ould not be edify'd by such singing, & that it was laying a stumbling block before them to sing after that sort; would you believe it was, & in order to please them would you be willing to lay aside the singing

home, looking across the valley toward the meeting-house, until his death, March 5th, 1824.

After more than a year had passed without the securing of a colleague to Mr. Avery, Rev. Horatio Bardwell was called at a salary of six hundred dollars. The exercises of his instal-

that was agreeable to you. I presume that you would not, & still that you would think that they ought not, on this account to forsake the communion of the Church. If the musick was as disagreeable to me as to you, I persuade myself that I could, notwithstanding, find edification in the house of God. I could resolve to have my mind raised above the mere sound of voice, & let the great truths of the psalm or hymn engross my attention. & If the musick is ever so agreeable to my ear, yet if I pay no regard to the truths that are sung, I am not edify'd as I ought. The main thing is to have the heart in tune, rightly impressed, & influenc'd. Why should we let the mere voice, if not agreeable, destroy our devotion, & prevent our edification. I wish Sir to have your mind, & my own above being discompos'd by small things. & that we, & others might walk together in the unity of the Spirit, & bond of peace. I am persuaded that if you would overlook, forget, or rise above things that have been, or are disagreeable to you, you would find more satisfaction in it, than you can in suffering things to chaff your mind so as to keep you from the house of God. As to lording it over your conscience, or any man's I trust I have not the most distant wish for it. What I desire & pray for, is the edification of the Church in general. It has been the bane of Christians in various ages to disagree about the circumstantialities of Religion. Every member of a Church has a right to use every fair argument in order to have things agreeable to his mind; but is it not more noble & Christianlike to deny ourselves of some things to prevent a division of the Church than to be so strenuous as to break off from it, because every thing is not agreeable. Good men may differ in Sentiment, paul, & Barnabas did; but difference in Judgment should not destroy mutual love. The Church in general sincerely wish that you, & Mr —— could see things in a different light. "You subscribe yourself a distressed brother." I truly wish you relief, & comfort, a serene old age, & at the close of it, a peaceful departure [out] of life to a better world. I can sympathize with you in yo[ur] affliction by reason of ye sickness, & weakness of some of your family, & am sorry that other troubles should be added to these. & I give it as the sober sentiment of my heart that if you would overcome that aversion you have to some things in the house of God, & could find your heart reconciled to a cheerful attendance on the duties of God's house that you would rejoice in it hereafter as a real happiness—I will endeavour to preach a Lecture at your house on thursday next at one o'clock in the Afternoon, & to come to your house in the forenoon.

I am with all sincerity, & friendship

Yours &c

JOSEPH AVERY

lation took place October 22d, 1823, according to the following program :

- “Introductory prayer by Rev. Mr. Nelson of Leicester—
- “Sermon by Rev. Dr. Woods Theol Sem. Andover—
- “Instaling prayer by Rev. Dr. Rice of Virginia—
- “Charge, by Rev. Mr. Conant of Paxton—
- “Right hand of fellowship, by Rev. Mr. Boardman of West Boylston—
- “Address to the Church & people, by Rev. Mr. Hull of Worcester.—
- “Concluding prayer by Rev. Mr. Avery.”

The new pastor had been for six years a missionary at Bombay, but on account of his health had been constrained to return to this country. The zeal for souls, which had sent him to India, was manifest in his work in America. His pastorate was especially characterized by revivals. In 1825, thirty-two new members were received, almost all upon confession of faith, although an unusual number were received by letter during this pastorate, the Church having placed upon record July 1st, 1824 the following declaration.

“Believing that it is conducive to the honour of Christ’s Chh, as well as promotive of individual edification, that each professor of religion should be under the watch of that particular chh, with which he usually communes at the Lord’s table, we hereby express our wish, that members of other chhs, who live & commune with us, & who expect thus to do, would remove their relation to this church.

“And we furthermore think, that except in extraordinary cases, no one should thus commune with us longer than one year, without becoming a member of this chh.

“We also feel it our duty to recommend to those individuals from other chhs who have lived with us, for years, to obtain a dismission from the chhs to which they respectively belong, & to become members of this chh, as soon as convenient.”

Then in 1830 came “the great revival,” in connection with which one hundred and sixty-four were within the year

welcomed to the fellowship of the Church. A year later twenty more were received. As a result, the membership of the Church doubled under Mr. Bardwell's labors, rising from about two hundred members to more than four hundred.

In view of the fact that no copy of the articles of faith could be found, the pastor was requested to draw up articles and to revise the covenant, and the following, prepared by him, were unanimously adopted July 1st, 1824.

"ARTICLES OF FAITH

"1. We believe that there is but one God, the Creator, Preserver, and moral Governor of the universe; a being of infinite power, wisdom, justice, goodness and truth; the self existent, and immutable fountain of goodness.

"2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old & New Testament were given by inspiration of God; that they are profitable for doctrine, for correction, for reproof, & for instruction in righteousness; & that they are our only rule of doctrinal belief, & religious practice.

"3. We believe that the Scriptures teach that the mode of divine existence is such, as lays a foundation for the three-fold distinction, Father, Son and Holy Ghost; and that these three are one in essence, & equal in power & glory.

"4. We believe that God, at first created man in a state of moral rectitude, that he voluntarily disobeyed the law of his Maker, & thereby fell into a state of sin & death; and that in consequence of this first apostacy, the hearts of all men are by nature entirely destitute of holiness; and so far as they are capable of moral action, they are in a state of positive disaffection with the law, character & government of God.

"5. We believe that Jesus Christ, by his obedience, sufferings & death, made atonement for sin; that he is the only Redeemer of sinners; and that all who are saved, will be wholly indebted to the grace & mercy of God, for their salvation.

"6. We believe that although the invitation of the gospel is such, that whosoever will may come & take of the water of life freely, yet the wickedness of the human heart is such that no man will come to Christ, except the Father draw him,

“7. We believe that those, who embrace Christ by a living faith, will never finally perish; but in fulfilment of God’s eternal purpose of grace, by which, they were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, he will enable them to persevere to the end.

“8. We believe that there will be a general resurrection of the bodies both of the just and the unjust; that all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to receive a just & final sentence of retribution according to the deeds done in the body; and that at this day of judgment, the state of all will be unalterably fixed; and that the happiness of the righteous & the punishment of the wicked will be endless.

“9. We believe that Christ has a visible church in the world, into which none in the sight of God but real believers, & none in the sight of men but visible believers have a right of admission.

“10. We believe that the sacraments of the new Testament are baptism & the Lord’s supper; and that visible believers only have a right of admission to the Lord’s supper; and that they & their households are the only proper subjects to whom baptism is to be administered.”

“COVENANT.

“You do now in the presence of God & men, avouch the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son & Holy Ghost, to be your God—the object of your supreme love, & your portion forever. You cordially acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as your only Saviour, & the Holy Spirit as your Sanctifier, Comforter & Guide. You humbly & cheerfully devote yourself to God in the covenant of grace—You consecrate yourself & all that you possess to his service & glory; and through the help of divine grace, you promise that you will deny all ungodliness & every worldly lust, that you will live soberly, righteously & godly, even unto death.

“You do now cordially join yourself to this church of Christ, engaging to submit to its discipline, & to attend on its worship & ordinances according to the rules of the gospel; & that you will walk with its members in christian love, watchfulness and purity. Thus you covenant, promise and engage.

“We do now, as a church of the Lord Jesus Christ receive you into our communion, & promise to watch over you with christian affection & tenderness, ever treating you in love as a member of the

body of Christ. This we do, imploring of the good Shepherd of Israel, that both we & you may have wisdom & grace to be faithful in his covenant, & glorify him with the holiness which becomes his house forever. AMEN."

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, in 1826, requested Mr. Bardwell to return, at least temporarily, to the charge of the mission at Bombay, which had become much reduced in number of missionaries. A mutual council was called by himself and the church, to consider the matter. Although no record of the findings of the council is preserved, presumably it advised against such a course, as he remained in Holden. February 5th, 1832, Mr. Bardwell read to his congregation another communication from the American Board, asking him to become the representative of their interests in the New England States. He being desirous of accepting this position, the town, February 20th, in accordance with the vote of the Church, released him from his civil contract with them, although he retained the name of pastor, until he was released by the same council which met to install his successor, October 24th, 1833.

The history of the church during this period may perhaps best be narrated in the language of Dr. Paine himself :

"In the early part of the year 1832, Mr. Bardwell signified his desire to be released from his pastoral relation to this people, and his regular services soon after ceased. A variety of candidates for settlement were then employed, and the society was becoming somewhat seriously divided, when the committee applied to me, to try my chance in a similar capacity. My first appearance in this unenviable position, was on the first Sabbath of January, 1833; and on account of the peculiar condition of the society at that juncture, it was a fiery ordeal for a young man to endure. When the candidate had been seen and heard, and questioned by those of various interests and isms, then taking form and position, he was, with a good degree of unanimity, invited to the pastorate. For various reasons, which seemed good and sufficient, the call was declined. The society then went through another season of hearing and rejecting candidates, when, as it seemed by the manifest direc-

tion of Providence, I was again invited to the pastoral office. The call was accompanied by some other communications, which seemed to make it plain that I should turn from another field of labor which I had a strong desire to enter, and come here. Under this impulse, I came, and was ordained on Thursday, the 24th day of October, 1833."¹

The programme of the exercises of his ordination were as follows :

Introductory Prayer by Rev. Mason Grosvenor of Ashfield.

Sermon by Rev. Elijah Paine of Claremont, N. H.²

Consecrating Prayer by Rev. Samuel Gay of Hubbardston.

Charge to the Pastor by Rev. Horatio Bardwell, the retiring Pastor.³

Fellowship of the Churches by Rev. Morris E. White of Southampton.

Address to the People by Rev. John Boardman of West Boylston.

Concluding Prayer by Rev. George Allen of Shrewsbury.

Dr. Paine's pastorate continued more than forty-one years. In surveying this long period, we shall follow his own example, if we throw into the foreground the noteworthy series of revivals, no less than ten in number, enjoyed by the church during these years. He said, "In no part of my pastoral work have I labored with so much solicitude and satisfaction, as in revivals. I came here with the firm conviction that revivals would be God's principal instrumentality to enlarge the church. When ordained, I felt that I must be satisfied with nothing less than frequent outpourings of the Holy Spirit."⁴ It is not surprising that a pastor animated by such a sentiment was able

¹ Thirtieth Anniversary Sermon, p. 13.

² Elder brother of Dr. Paine, afterward settled at West Boylston, where he died, September 14th, 1836.

³ "I thought that if he had borne the burden he placed upon me, he must feel much relieved in throwing it off." A Sermon preached by Rev. William P. Paine, D. D., Pastor of the Congregational Church, Holden, Mass., on the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of his Settlement, October 24th, 1858, p. 11.

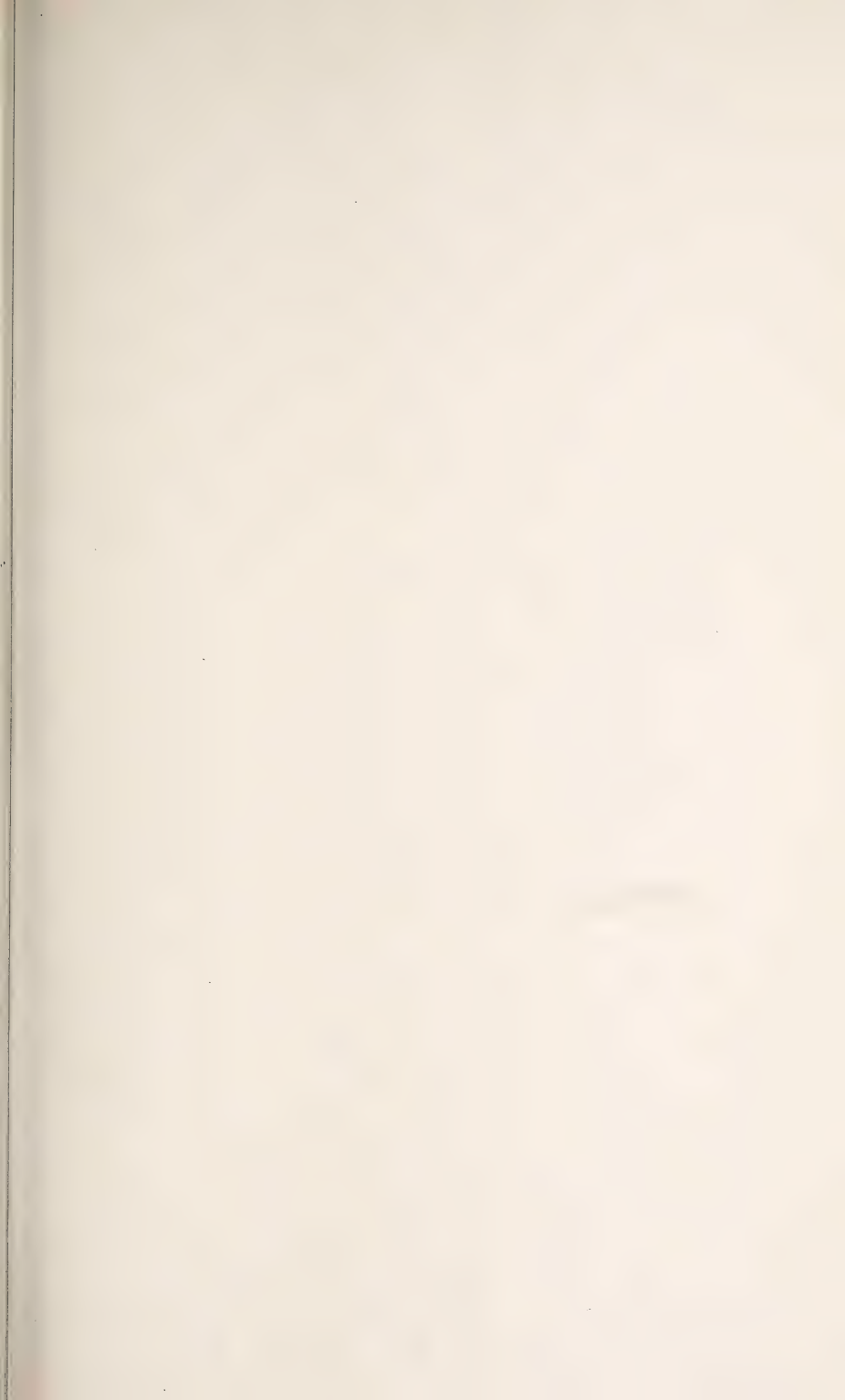
⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 13.

to rejoice in numerous revivals. He records no less than "ten distinct and precious seasons of special religious interest." In 1834, fourteen were received on profession of faith, in 1836, thirty-five were thus received; in 1838 twelve; in 1841, thirty-nine; in 1843, twenty-two; in 1850, fifteen; in 1851, thirty; in 1856, fifteen; in 1858, twenty-six; and in 1869, thirty-three were thus received.

Alongside this frequent ingathering a scattering was continually going on. Looking back after thirty years to the beginning of his ministry, Dr. Paine said, "The church was then large, indeed the largest in this vicinity; but more have since been separated from it by deaths and removals, than were then members of it. During my ministry, almost five hundred have been removed from the church, averaging more than sixteen per year. . . . Under a process of such large and unceasing depletion, it is not easy to sustain a church and religious institutions."¹ During the rest of his ministry the same process continued, so that the church, which in 1839 numbered four hundred and forty, was slowly reduced till in 1874 its enrolled membership was two hundred and thirty-four.

Before the settlement of Dr. Paine, the connection of the Church with the town had entirely ceased. The result was finally the introduction of the system of voluntary contributions for Church expenses. He said, "Many societies, however, and ours among them, continued to raise the money they required as towns do, by tax upon individual valuation. This was the method of conducting our financial affairs for many years after my settlement. Under this rule, ample funds to meet the appropriations were always to be found in the treasury, and the minister's salary was invariably ready on a specified day. Individual taxes were light, little more than nominal. One might be disposed to ask why so easy a course of raising parish funds was not continued. The brief answer is that there were too many who were unwilling to stand in their lot, even though the burden was so light. One after another withdrew his

¹ Thirtieth Anniversary Sermon, p. 21.





CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AND TOWN HALL.

shoulder until the pressure was so great that it could not be endured by the few who were left. Then the course of voluntary contribution was adopted, which is attended with more trouble and uncertainty, but with less disaffection."¹ It was not, indeed, till 1853, that the Church, after having been constrained to resort to exclusion because of withdrawal from the Society to escape paying for the support of the gospel, recommended to the Society the adoption of the voluntary system, which action the Society took at its next annual meeting.

The fortieth anniversary of the settlement of Dr. Paine was publicly celebrated in a fitting manner, October 24th, 1873. Hundreds of invitations were sent out to those who had formerly been connected with the parish, and many returned to join in the celebration. The church was tastefully decorated, the most conspicuous emblem being an evergreen chain of forty links, supporting a cross, a beautiful emblem of the duration and the character of Dr. Paine's ministry. In the afternoon the pastor preached an anniversary sermon to an audience which thronged the church. At half past four o'clock a collation was served in the hall to more than five hundred persons, and in the evening there was a social reunion with a number of addresses in the church. The text of the sermon was—

"Thou shalt remember the way in which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years." Deut. viii: 2.

In the discourse the repairing of the meeting-house was strongly urged, and the aged pastor was soon permitted to see his long work crowned with the completion of this important enterprise. The meeting-house stood practically unchanged from its repairing in 1828 till 1874. The edifice was then raised so as to provide commodious and pleasant parlors and vestry on the first floor. The whole arrangement of the audience room was transformed and modernized, new windows were put in, the entrance was rearranged and the furniture was wholly new. The entire cost, aside from the purchase of the

¹ Fortieth Anniversary Sermon, pp. 7, 8.

pews by the Society at their appraised valuation, was \$6,000. The rededication took place January 30th, 1875, calling together many who had gone out from the Church to other places. The sermon on the occasion was most appropriately preached by Dr. Paine. Rev. Elnathan Davis, Merrill Richardson, D. D., sons of the Church, and Ebenezer Cutler, D. D., of Worcester, participated in the service.

A year later, Dr. Paine tendered his resignation in the following letter :

“ To the Congregational Church and Society in Holden—

“ Dear Christian Brethren and Friends—

“ In consideration of my prostrated and long continued feeble health, I have been very reluctantly and painfully brought to the conclusion, that it is my duty to resign, and I do hereby resign the Pastorate and ministerial office, which I have so long and so agreeably sustained to you.

“ Your affectionate pastor and friend,

WM. P. PAINE.

“ Holden, March 13, 1875.”

March 22d, the Society held a meeting to consider this resignation, and appointed a committee to confer with Dr. Paine as to what action would be best. At the adjourned meeting, April 6th, this committee reported that Dr. Paine still desired to have his resignation accepted, and accordingly the following Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted.

“ Whereas, our beloved and venerable Pastor, Rev. William P. Paine, D. D., on account of physical disabilities and the infirmities of age, has been constrained to request that his pastoral relations with this Church and Society be severed, therefore,

“ Resolved, 1st. That it is with feelings of sadness and regret that this announcement has been received.

“*Resolved*, 2d. That Dr. Paine, by sustaining the relation of Pastor to this people for more than forty-one years, has endeared himself to us so strongly that the ties can not be easily sundered.

“*Resolved*, 3d. That by his faithful labors, his judicious counsel and his kind and genial manners he has surrounded himself with warm and devoted friends, and has won the respect and esteem of all.

“*Resolved*, 4th. That he is entitled to our warmest gratitude and love which is hereby tendered to him by these resolutions.

“*Resolved*, 5th. That in view of the circumstances under which his resignation has been offered that it is accepted, so far as to release our Pastor from all care and responsibility and the Parish from all financial obligations, and that he remain our Pastor *Emeritus*.

“*Resolved*, 6th. That a copy of these resolutions be furnished to Dr. Paine, and also entered upon the records of the Parish.”

It was further voted to tender the free use of the parsonage to Dr. Paine until otherwise voted by the Society.

The relation thus established continued till the death of Dr. Paine, nearly two years later, November 28th, 1876.

Rev. William A. Lamb served as Pastor of the Church from June 13th, 1875, till December 17th, 1876. It thus fell to him to officiate at the funeral services of his predecessor and colleague, Dr. Paine. From the organization of the Congregational Church until this time, a period of almost precisely one hundred and thirty-four years, the town had never been without a Congregational minister belonging here.

Rev. Henry M. Rogers began his work here January 21st, 1877. After the termination of the two years, for which arrangements were first made with him, he supplied the pulpit for another year till April 1st, 1880, half of the Sundays in person, and half of them by proxy, performing, however, none of the other duties of the pastorate, except attending funerals. In 1879, the Society committee, as authorized, borrowed \$1,400, securing the loan by a mortgage on the parsonage. This parsonage was deeded by Jacob and Anna Howard to the First

Religious Society, on condition of the payment of \$117 annually so long as either of them should survive. It was later sold to satisfy the mortgage. There had also been a fund of \$1,568.75, arising from the ministerial lands. This also disappeared from the records about this time, the last entry of interest upon it being in 1877.

Rev. Henry C. Fay acted as pastor from July, 1880, to January, 1882. The pulpit was then supplied for some time by Rev. William W. Parker of West Boylston. The next minister of the Church was Rev. Frederic A. Balcom, who served from June, 1884, till September, 1886. Rev. Wilbur Rand officiated a single year, from April 1st, 1887, to April 1st, 1888. The pulpit was supplied till December of that year by Rev. William G. Tuttle of Worcester.

"Believing that every Church should control its house of worship, instead of its being controlled by the Society independent of said Church," the First Religious Society, in 1885, transferred "all their rights and interest in their present house of Worship to the Congregational Church to be forever held by said Church for the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ," and, the Church having voted to accept the transfer, the Society finally dissolved, December 15th, 1885.

December 1st, 1888, Rev. Melvin J. Allen began his labors as pastor of the Church. He was formally installed on the 20th of the same month. Rev. William V. W. Davis preached the sermon, Rev. William G. Tuttle made the Prayer of Installation, Rev. George S. Dodge of Rutland gave the Right Hand of Fellowship, Rev. Frank D. Sargent of Townsend, the Charge to the Pastor, Rev. Amos H. Coolidge of Leicester, the Address to the Church and People, and Rev. David F. Estes, the Welcome to the Town. During this pastorate, a pipe organ was purchased and placed behind the pulpit, which was moved somewhat forward. The cost of the organ and changes amounted to \$1,300. Mr. Allen closed his labors September 12th, 1890.

Rev. Thomas E. Babb commenced his labors with the Church June 1st, 1892.

The Deacons of the Church have been —

William Nichols,	1743.
Samuel Pierce,	1743.
Joseph Hubbard,	1755.
David Fisk,	1762.
Noah Haven,	1783.
Israel Davis,	1793.
Elisha Hubbard,	1793.
Peter Rice,	1810 — 1849.
Seth Clapp,	1810 — 1825.
Joshua Fairbanks,	1818 — 1839.
Isaac Fisk,	1818 — 1819.
Silas Flagg,	1825 — 1842.
John Lovell,	1825 — 1842.
Silas M. Hubbard,	1839 — 1865.
Caleb S. Fiske,	1842 — 1851.
Cyrus Perry,	1842 — 1871.
Newell Moore,	1849 — 1865.
Alonzo K. Ware,	1851 — 1858.
Samuel B. Hubbard,	1865 — 1885.
John B. Moore,	1872 — 1876.
J. Calvin Spaulding,	1876 — 1882.
William H. Flagg,	1876 — 1888, 1890.*
Franklin Moore,	1882 — 1891, 1892.*
Marcus Moore,	1884 — 1890.
Thomas W. Gleason,	1889 — 1891.

The first four pastors served as clerks of the Church. Since the resignation of Dr. Paine, the following have served as clerks :

Ethan Davis,	1875 — 1880.
J. Calvin Spaulding,	1880 — 1881.
Joseph H. Gleason,	1881 — 1883.
Horace B. Morse,	1883 — 1885.
Franklin Moore,	1885 — 1888.
Nancy Perry,	1888.*

In 1819, Sunday schools were established, at first one in each district of the town. After a year's trial of this arrange-

* Still serving, 1892,

ment, the work was concentrated at the church. Dea. John Lovell was superintendent for fifteen years, from 1822, to 1836. He was followed by Alonzo K. Ware for three years. In 1841, Lambert Allen was superintendent. Unfortunately the records do not enable us to give the exact succession for many years thereafter. The following among others are remembered to have served as superintendents: Dea. Caleb S. Fiske, Dea. Samuel B. Hubbard, Stillman Hubbard, Dea. Newell Moore, Dr. Augustus C. Robbins. David F. Parker closed his superintendency in 1871, and has been succeeded by William H. Flagg, 1872; Frederic M. Stowell, 1873-4; Joseph H. Gleason, 1875; Herbert B. Verry, 1876; Edward Jerome, 1877; J. Calvin Spaulding, 1878; Ethan Davis, 1879; Franklin Moore, 1880; Joseph H. Gleason, 1881; William H. Drury, 1882-7; Frederic L. Moore, 1888; Fred E. Bennett, 1889; Frederic L. Moore, 1890. Franklin Moore, chosen in 1891, is still serving.

Ecclesiastical councils have very rarely been called to settle difficulties in the history of this Church. They have been called to examine and ordain Elnathan Davis, 1836; Samuel C. Damon, 1842; James F. Clarke, 1859; and Cyrus M. Perry, 1865.

The BAPTIST CHURCH in Holden was organized in 1807. There had, however, been Baptists in town for nearly a quarter of a century before. November 15, 1784, the Congregational Church "met upon a request of Messrs. Simeon Snow & Jotham Howe, & wives to be dismiss'd from this [Congregational] Church, & recommended to Mr. Gair's, of Medfield." It further appears from the records that "the objections offered against the Chh as stated were admitting persons without a *verbal* relation of a work of grace on the heart—& the other baptizing Infants without warrant from the word of God". The request of these persons was granted.

Article nine in the warrant for the town meeting held May 5th, 1788, read "To See if the Town will answer the petition

¹ Mr. Gair was pastor of the Baptist Church in Medfield.

of Mr. John Perry and others of the Babtis belonging to said Holden." It appears that this petition was for the abatement of the taxes levied for the support of the Established Church, but it was voted not to allow the petition.

Later it became possible to secure an exemption from this taxation by filing with the town clerk an exemption certificate. The records of the town have preserved nineteen such certificates issued between 1805 and 1820, they becoming needless at the latter date. They were substantially like the following, though only the first are double :

"These may Certify that Jotham Howe of Holden Joined the Baptist Chh in Templeton on the 11 Day of March 1805

JOHN HUBBARD Under Scribe

"Holden March 13 : 1805

"These may Certify that Jotham Howe of Holden has Joined the Baptist Incorporated Society in Templeton and has given in his name to the Clerk of Said Society to be Taxed for the support of Publick worship with Said Society.

JOHN HUBBARD } Clerk of the Branch of the
} Baptist Society in Templeton.

"Holden March 13 : 1805"

According to the custom of those days, traveling preachers passed through this region from time to time, holding meetings as opportunity offered. Among others a colored minister from Boston, by the name of Paul, came repeatedly and baptized several. The most effective work, however, was done by Rev. Elisha Andrews, pastor of the church in Templeton (now called the Baldwinville Church). The members here constituted at first a branch of that Church, and records of the doings of the branch Church have been kept since June 4th, 1804. It was voted, October 29th, 1807, to send a letter to the mother Church, requesting to be dismissed and formed into a separate Church. Their request was granted, and December 31st, 1807, representatives of the Churches in Harvard, Ley-

erett and Sutton met in council and organized a Church with forty-seven constituent members.

The names of the constituent members of the Church were these: Aaron Perry, Ephraim Merrick, Hezekiah Walker, Abraham Gates, John Hubbard, Solomon Parmenter, Asa Howe, Silas Walker, Charles Brooks, Eli Hubbard, Benjamin Hubbard, Jotham Howe, Thomas Howe, Samuel Abbot, John Walker, Paul Colburn, Thomas Marshall, Daniel Shepard, Pelatiah Allen, John Brown, William Everett, Polly Sargent, Lydia Parmenter, Lydia Hubbard, Mehitabel Colburn, Hannah Howe, Sally Howe, Polly Walker, Lydia Parmenter, Jr., Polly Hubbard, Eleanor Howe, Polly Henry, Lucretia Howe, Nancy Brooks, Polly Burke, Patty Caldwell, Sarah Pratt, Sarah Mason, Rachel Walker, Dorothy Howe, Tabitha Perry, Thankful Mason, Lucy Walker, Eunice Metcalf, Judith Gates, Persis Walker and Nabby Shepard.

The original Articles of Faith are as follows:

“1stly We believe that there is one God, who is a spirit eternally the same, a being infinitely holy, Just, and Good filling all space with his Goodness, Essentially happy in the possession of him self—John 4.24 Du^t 6.4. Psal 90.2 Gen 17.1 Psal 115.3]

“2ndly That he has revealed him self in his word to be Father, Son and Holy spirit in which word he hath given us a perfect rule of Faith and practice—1 John 5.7 Matt 28.19 2 Cor 13.14 John 1.14 & 18.15.26 Gal 4.6 2 Tim 3.15.16 Gal 1.8.9

“3dly We believe that God did in the beginning Create Worlds and beings by the word of his power, and Doth uphold them the Same; that he Created man Holy, but man Did willingly rebel and transgress the law of his creator, and there by has lost his normal rectitud, and has become Sinfull in all his parts, both of Soul and body and his posterity have by natural generation Derived the Same Sinfull Disposition, and have become by nature the Servants of Sin, and Subjects of Temporal and Eternal Death and that God by his kind providence Doth over rule all events for his own Glory—John 1.1.2.3 Rom 1.20 Colos 1.16 Gen 2.1.2 Heb 1.3 Isa 46.10.11 Ps 13.5.6 Gen 1.17 Ecle 7.29 Gen 1.27 & 3.12.13 2 Cor 11.3 1 Tim 2.14 Rom 3.23 & 5.12 Titus 1.15 Gen 6.5 Jerem 17.9 & 6.17. 20.23 Heb 2.14 Hosea 1.6.7. Isah 25 chap

“4thly We believe that man being thus Dead, his recovery is only in God, and by his eternal purpos of Election Did Chuse a number in Christ to eternal Salvation—and that Christ Did in the fullness of time Take on him human nature (Sin only exep-
ted) liv^d a holy life, Died an accursed Death on the Cross, was buried, rose, assended ever liveth to make intercession for us. Hosea 13.9 Eph 1.4 1 Pet 1.2 Jn^o 1.14 Rom 8.3 Heb 2.14.15.16.17 & 7.26 Gal 3.13 Luke 23.53 & 24.6 acts 1.9

“5thly We believe that the Holy Spirit of God proceeding from the Father & the Son; & he only, Can, and Doth make particular applycation of the worth of Christ to every Elect Soul, and that he hath by the Same Spirit, convinced us of our lost, sinful, and undon Condition and gives us grace to believe in Christ who is made of God unto us wisdom, righteousness, Sanctification and Eternal Redemption John 16.7.13.14

“6thly We believe that the life of religion Consists in the knolidge of God, and Conformity to him in the inward man, which necessarily produces an external Conformity to his law, and ordinances; and a union and fellowship one with another. Jhn 17.3 Eph 3.10

“7thly We believe that baptism and the Lords Supper are institutions of Christ to be Continued till his Second Comming, and that the formor is requisite to the Latter, that is Such, and Such only, are to be admited to the Communion of the Chh who have on profession of there faith bin baptised by immertion. Matt 28.19 Mark 16.15.16 acts 8.36.37.38 Rom 6.3.4 1 Cor 11.23.24

“8thly We believe that the Soal government of the Chh is in Christ and that it is he and he only that can Quallify and Send forth Labourers into his Vineyard, and Doth call his Chh into the kingdom of his grace, and by his Spirit Doth gather them into particular Churches, and hath given them power under him to govern there own members Isa 9.6 Glat 1.12.15.16 Rom 3.30 Ezek 34.11 Eph 2.17 act 26.11 Rev 3.7 Heb 3.7 Eph 2.19.22 Matt 16.19 John 20.23

“9thly We believe that Bretheran in Christ ought not to go to law one with another 1 Cor 6.1.2.3.4.5.6.7.

“10thly We believe that a Bishop or Elder by virtue of ordination hath no right to be moderator or Scribe of the Chh or to clame or exciese any more power in the government of the Chh than any

privit brother from the nature of his office as Discribed in Scripture
 Matt 23.19.20 Mark 16.15.16 1 Tim 4.12.13.14.15.16 2 Tim 4.2
 1 Pet 1.2.3”

There is no record of any covenant earlier than 1820. The covenant adopted by the Church, August 19th of that year, ran thus :

“We do now in the presence of the great all seeing & most Glorious God and before angels & men give up our selves to the Lord Jehovah the Father Son & Holy Ghost and avouch him this day to be our God & Father our Saviour Leader & receive him as our Portion Forever.

“We give up our selves to the Lord Jesus Christ and engage to adhere to him as the head of his People in the Covenant of redemption and rely on him as our prophet Priest and King to bring us into eternal blessedness.

“We acknowledge our everlasting and indispensable obligation to Glorify God by living holy riteous and Godly lives in this present world in all our several places & relations

“And we do engage by the assistance of the Divine Spirit to improve our time Strength talents and advantages to his Glory and the Good of our fellowmen :

“Promising by divine Grace to walk in our houses as becomes those professing Godliness and to maintain the worship of God in our familys and train up those under our care in the ways of religion and virtue.

“We do give up our selves to on another in Covenant promising to conduct towards each other as brethren in Christ watching one another in the Love of God and to watch not only against the most gross evils but also against all foolish talking and jesting which are not convenient; vain disputing about word & things which gender strife disregarding promises and not fulfilling engagements tatling and backbiting spending time badly at taverns & elsewhere and vain and unnecessary worldly Conversation on lords days and whatsoever els is Contrary to sound doctrine.

“According to the glorious gospel of Christ promising to hold communion together in the worship of God, in the ordinances and discipline of his Church according as we are or shall be guided by the spirit of God in his word; expecting that he will yet farther and

more gloriously open to us his word and the misteries of his kingd[om]

“Applying to the blood of the everlasting [covenant] for the pardon of our many errors and praying that the Lord would prepare & strengthen us to every good word and work to do his will working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be Glory forever & ever Amen.”

The first business of the young Church was to provide means for the support of worship. February 8th, 1808, they “Chose Br John Hubbard & Br Charles Brooks to Make the Everage for the year 1808, and to make them according to what they are worth as near as they Can, takeing it from their own mouths.” In 1804 the rates had been made by the town Valuation.

They then invited Rev. Elisha Andrews to supply them one-fourth of the time for a year, and he continued to preach more or less regularly, and to exercise the principal pastoral oversight over the Church until 1813, when, as he closed his ministry in Templeton, his work here ceased as well. During the period of his ministrations in Holden, seventy-five were baptized into the fellowship of the young Church, and it grew to number one hundred and twelve.

Whenever Mr. Andrews was not present, it appears that meetings were sustained by the coopération of the brethren. Thus several developed such capabilities that the Church called them to ordination. Thomas Marshall was ordained September 15th, 1813, “Elder” Andrews preaching the sermon; Amasa Smith was ordained June 1st, 1814, “Elder” Crosby of Thompson, Conn., preaching, and John Walker, October 30th, 1816, Rev. Jonathan Going preaching.

From 1813 to the close of 1817, Rev. Thomas Marshall and Rev. John Walker were the principal pulpit supplies, the former usually acting as Moderator of the Church meetings. For the year 1814, it was voted, December 2d, 1813, “to request Brother Thomas Marshall & Br. John Walker to Preach each of them one-fourth part of the time at Holden & one-fourth at

West Boylston." During these years about twenty were baptized.

At a meeting of the Church held December 31st, 1817, it was "Voted that [we] request Elder Walker to take the pastoral charge of this Church by being installed on the first wednesday in february, 1818." No record, however, remains of such a service. He continued to hold this relation till he was dismissed at his own request, against the unanimously expressed desire of the Church, April 7th, 1831. The Church was greatly prospered under his labors. In 1818, forty-seven were received to the Church by baptism; in 1819, twenty-three; in 1821, fourteen; in 1825, twenty-nine, and in 1830, forty-four. The whole number received during this pastorate was two hundred and four. June 10th, 1818, forty-seven were dismissed to constitute the Church in West Boylston, and sixty-five, July 31st, 1822 to constitute the Princeton Church. With all these diminutions, the Church, which numbered at the beginning of his pastorate one hundred and twenty-one, numbered one hundred and seventy-two at its close.

Before 1820, the Church had no house of worship, but held its meetings in private houses in different parts of the town, and wherever room could be found. The council for the constitution of the Church was held at the house of Abraham Gates, in the northern part of the town, just south of the house of Samuel Mason, by whom the place is now owned. In 1810, arrangement was made to worship for a time in the shed chamber of Thomas Marshall. This building stood near the north-west corner of the common. The council to examine Amasa Smith met at William Metcalf's house, and the services of ordination were held in his barn. The houses of many of the brethren were thus freely opened and used. In 1819, the lot next north of the site of the Damon Memorial was secured, in spite of opposition, for a meeting-house. The building was erected at once, dedicated in 1820, and used till after the erection of the present church, when it was refitted as a dwelling house, and is now occupied by Avery Davis. After Mr. Walker left, the Church was pastorless about a year. Rev. Apple-

ton Belknap, who had supplied the pulpit for some months, was ordained June 13th, 1832. The public services were held in the Congregational meeting-house. Rev. Charles Train of Framingham, preached the sermon, Rev. Otis Converse of Grafton, made the Ordaining Prayer, Rev. F. Augustus Willard of Worcester, gave the Charge, Rev. Joseph G. Binney of West Boylston, the Right Hand of Fellowship, and Rev. John Walker of Sutton, the Address to the Church. Mr. Belknap held the pastorate only a little more than a year, closing his labors October 27th, 1833.

A year later, September 25th, 1834, Rev. George Waters was ordained to the pastorate of the Church, the services being again held in the Congregational meeting-house. Rev. F. A. Willard preached, Rev. John Walker made the ordaining prayer, Rev. Otis Converse gave the Charge, Rev. Nehemiah G. Lowell of Princeton, the Hand of Fellowship, and Rev. J. G. Binney, the Address to the Church. This pastorate continued till March 31st, 1838. During this time there was apparently the greatest prosperity which the Church has ever enjoyed. In three years time eighty-five were baptized, fifty-seven in one year, the membership mounted to two hundred and thirty-three, the Sunday School was thronged, and the present house of worship was erected, at a cost of \$4,500, and was dedicated December 24th, 1835.

Amid this prosperity, unfortunately, a difficulty arose between one of the brethren and the pastor, which, although small at the beginning, and although the Church voted that Mr. Waters "ought to be, & is in our opinion exonerated from all blame," in reference to the complaining brother, yet unhappily resulted in causing a division of feeling in the church, the resignation of the pastor, and the ebbing of the tide of prosperity, which had been flowing so strongly.

During this pastorate the Church formally defined its policy in the following vote, which was passed April 4th, 1835: "That the Pastor, in giving an invitation to members of other churches to the Communion Table of our Common Lord, shall extend it to all Baptized believers in regular standing in orthodox

Churches of Christ." In 1858, and again in 1874, this declaration was reaffirmed with very slight verbal changes.

Immediately after the departure of Mr. Waters, the Rev. Samuel Everett was invited "to supply the Desk for a season." He was soon called to the pastorate, which he accepted, June 23d, 1838. He was publicly recognized as pastor after the peculiar fashion thus described in the records :

" after singing & reading the Scriptures, Rev. Mr. Paine prayed. The Pastor elect offered a short prayer & then related his Christian experience, & call to the ministry, & expressed his views in relation to his duty to take the charge of this church & people.

"The church was then called upon to express their minds by vote; whereupon they voted 1. that they were satisfied with the relation of Br. Everett. 2. Voted that they now accept him as their Pastor. Br. L. Tracy¹ then addressed the church in an appropriate manner & offered Prayer for Pastor & people. After singing, Rev. Elnathan Davis made the closing prayer."

After a single year's service, Mr. Everett closed his labors April 4th, 1839. "The Church were now called to pass through a season of severe trials. . . . Many cases of discipline required the attention of the church. Without a pastor, without officers, (the three deacons having just removed to other fields of labor), none could be found willing to fill their places. While thus destitute, eighteen were dismissed to other churches; a number were excluded and a number more were removed by death, among whom was Bro. Willard M. Hubbard, who had long been a pillar in the church, aiding it, by giving liberally of both time and money, to sustain the cause of truth."² Mr. Hubbard bequeathed \$1,000 to the Church, the interest of \$400 to be paid for the maintenance of singing, and of the remaining \$600 for the support of the preaching of the gospel.

¹ Rev. Leonard Tracy, pastor at West Boylston.

² Historical Sketch of Baptist Church in Holden, [by William C. Metcalf.] Minutes of the Wachusett Association, 1864, p. 18.

Amid these discouragements, Rev. Andrew Pollard became pastor, serving the Church from August 12th, 1840 till April 1st, 1843. During the difficulties of this time, his soundness of mind, sagacity and caution were of great value.

The next pastorate was that of Rev. Woodman H. Watson, who was ordained here June 21st, 1843, according to the following program :

Sermon by Rev. Calvin Newton of Grafton.

Ordaining Prayer by Rev. Leonard Tracy of West Boylston.

Charge by Rev. John Walker of Barre, a former pastor.

Right Hand of Fellowship by Rev. John Jennings, of the Second Baptist Church, Worcester.

Address to the Church and Congregation by Rev. Samuel B. Swaim, of the First Baptist Church, Worcester.

When Mr. Watson became pastor of the Church, the membership had diminished in six years from two hundred and thirty-three to one hundred and thirty-six, and though he baptized twenty-one, there was little gain in numbers. He resigned April 16th, 1847.

November 17th, 1847, Rev. Josiah H. Tilton assumed the pastoral office, and held it till September 1st, 1852. This pastorate was marked by one considerable revival, in 1851, when thirty-one were received on profession of faith. In 1848, the parsonage was erected at a cost of somewhat more than \$1,100, and the grounds about the meeting-house and parsonage were graded and enclosed. It appears from the records of the First Baptist Society, (which has had a legal existence since 1828, for the purpose of managing the financial affairs of the parish) that the practice of assessments upon members according to their valuation, for part, at least, of the money raised, was first entirely dispensed with in 1852.

Rev. Andrew Dunn acted as pastor for one year from January 23d, 1853. Rev. Timothy C. Tingley accepted the pastorate June 4th, 1854, and resigned it December 21st, 1856. May 5th, 1857, Mr. Tilton became pastor for the second time,

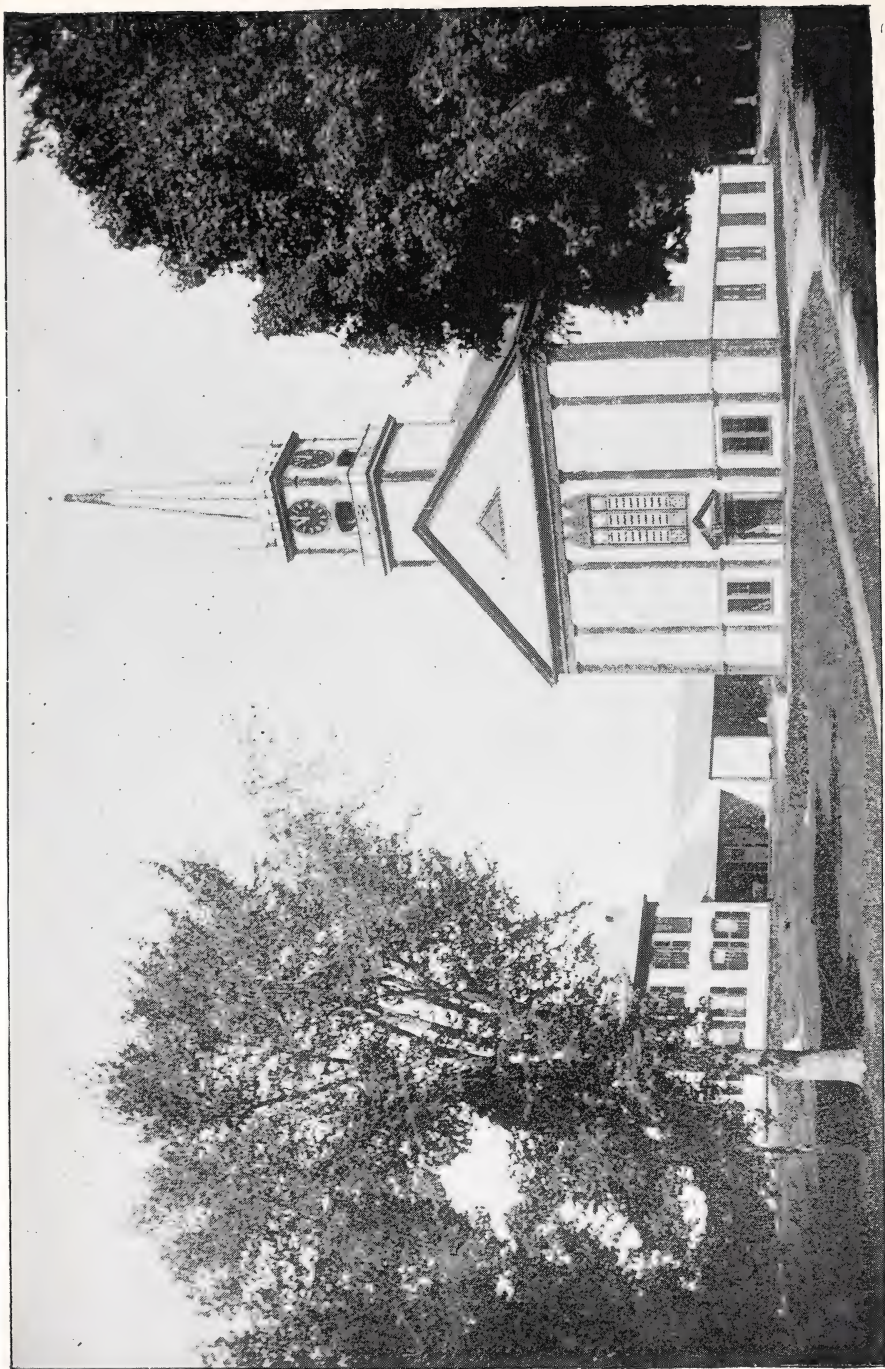
the relation continuing till March 31st, 1859. During the first year of his pastorate a revival was enjoyed and sixteen were baptized, but by reason of revision of the rolls the number of members reported in 1858 was only one hundred and six.

July 23d, 1859, Rev. Lester Williams, Jr., was invited to take charge of the Church. His labors here were encompassed with grave difficulties, as the working force of the church had become much reduced, the average total membership while he was here being less than one hundred and fifteen, and during this time the minds of the people were distracted by the national perils of the civil war, party strife and family anxieties and sorrows. Mr. Williams closed his labors with the year 1864.

After a brief interval Rev. John S. Haradon was invited to the pulpit, and served the Church from April 23d, 1865, to August 30th, 1868. During this time twenty-three were baptized.

February 5th, 1869, Rev. George W. Kinney began a term of pastoral service, which lasted till June 30th, 1871. In March, 1869, began what is known to this generation as "the great revival." Rev. Dwight Spencer aided the pastor as an evangelist. The whole town was stirred, and thirty-nine were received to the church, giving an important and permanent increase of strength.

After an interval of a year, Rev. John Rounds came as pastor, July 1st, 1872. During this pastorate, the meeting-house was thoroughly repaired at an expense of \$3,672.18. The steps were removed from the front of the building, and staircases were arranged within the house, vestry rooms were provided in the basement, the galleries were removed and the whole interior was refitted. January 11th, 1875, Mr. John W. Howe of Worcester, a native of Holden and formerly a member of this Church, presented to the Church the clock which he had caused to be placed in the tower of the meeting-house. A year later a bell was purchased at a cost of \$650. During the second year of Mr. Rounds' stay religious interest deepened,



BAPTIST CHURCH.

and thirteen were baptized. He closed his labors here June 14th, 1874.

November 1st, 1874, Rev. John K. Chase entered on the duties of the pastorate, which he discharged till April 28th, 1879. During the first year of his labors, forty-six were baptized. The pastorate of Rev. Isaac S. Hamblen began April 24th, 1880, and terminated January 31st, 1886. In 1883, a revival resulted in the reception of twenty-six members on profession of faith. The pastorate of Rev. David F. Estes continued from September 1st, 1886 to September 30th, 1891.

In 1886, a bequest of six hundred dollars was received from the estate of Samuel Brooks of Princeton, in memory of his wife, Lucy Hubbard Brooks. In 1890, Dea. William Howe presented to the Church a vocalion organ. In 1891, the interior of the main audience room was entirely renovated at a cost of \$2,500. The nine windows of the church put in at this time bear the names of the following persons, to commemorate their relation to the church, Rev. Elisha Andrews, Rev. Andrew Pollard, D. D., and Rev. Lester Williams, Jr., pastors of the Church; William Howe, D. D., and John W. Howe, sons of the Church; William Metcalf, Dea. Willard Allen, Dea. William Howe, and Mrs. William Howe. The church was reopened with a historical sermon by Rev. David F. Estes, October 25th, 1891.

Rev. Benjamin H. Lane began his labors as pastor, April 17th, 1892.

The Deacons of the Baptist Church with their terms of service have been as follows :

Windsor Newton,	1807 - 1823.
Silas Walker,	1807 - 1838.
John Woodbury,	1824 - 1839.
Jonas Warren,	1837 - 1839.
James S. Moore,	1840 - 1858.
Willard Allen,	1840 - 1873.
George S. Goddard,	1858.*
William Howe,	1873.*

* Still serving, 1892.

The following have served as clerks of the church :

John Hubbard,	1808 - 1809.
Thomas Marshall,	1809 - 1814.
William Metcalf,	1814 - 1830.
Willard Allen,	1830 - 1832.
Samuel Damon,	1832 - 1835.
George Waters,	1835 - 1838.
Jonas Warren,	1838 - 1838.
Samuel Everett,	1838 - 1839.
William Metcalf,	1839 - 1845.
James S. Moore,	1845 - 1853.
Willard Allen,	1853 - 1855.
Timothy C. Tingley,	1855 - 1857.
William C. Metcalf,	1857.*

Sunday School work began, as is practically certain, as early as the spring of 1820. Yet there are two or three still surviving who have been members almost continuously to the present time. The earliest record bears date of 1833, when a "Sabbath School Association" was formed of those "desirous to come into a more systematic course of operations in the management of the Sabbath School." The officers of the Association were : President, Rev. Appleton Belknap ; Secretary, Willard Allen ; Treasurer, Simon Hubbard ; Librarian, Zara Howe ; Superintendent, Samuel Damon ; Directress, Joanna Gould ; Committee, Joel Walker, Willard M. Hubbard, John Holden. "In this early period the pupils in each class were required to commit to memory and recite the scripture lesson, the teacher asking such questions and making such explanations as occurred to him, unassisted by question book, commentary, notes, or any of those appliances now considered so indispensable to success. The era of juvenile music and Sunday School libraries had not yet come, books and songs adapted to interest and instruct the minds of children and youth being then unknown." ¹

* Still serving, 1892.

¹ History of the Holden Baptist Sunday School, by William C. Metcalf. Memorial History of the Wachusett Baptist Sabbath School Convention, p. 29. "He . . . has had to rely almost wholly upon his own recollections, necessarily indistinct, for any facts in the early history of the school."

Probably Samuel Damon was the first Superintendent. Dea. John Woodbury, Dea. Silas Walker, Augustus F. Fuller, William Metcalf, Thomas Howe, Willard M. Hubbard, Alona Hubbard, and Betsy Allen are remembered as active and efficient teachers.

The following have served as Superintendents: Joel Walker, 1835; Jonas Warren, 1836-7; James S. Moore, 1838-40 and 1845; William C. Metcalf, 1841-4, 1846-8, 1857-9 and 1861-3; Samuel Warren, 1849-50; Archelaus Putnam, 1851-3, 1860, 1862 and 1866-8; John W. Howe, 1854-6; Israel M. Ball, 1864-5; John S. Haradon, 1866, May to July; George W. Kinney, 1869, May to October; Fred H. Fales, 1869-70; Phineas R. Newell, 1871-6, and 1878-85; Homer D. Stearns, 1877, 1887 and 1888, May to September; Fred A. Bryant, 1888-9; James A. Holden, 1890; Stillman F. Morse was chosen May, 1891, and is still serving.

ST. MARY'S PARISH.—In the year 1850, Rev. Father Matthew W. Gibson, parish priest of St. John's Church in Worcester, came, at the request of the few Roman Catholics settled in the town of Holden, and said the first mass in Michael McLaughlin's house. During the years following until 1868, wherever the faithful could be gathered together, whether in private houses, or in the hall at Eagleville, or in the hall at the center of the town, mass was said.

In 1867, Rev. Patrick T. O'Reilly, then pastor of St. John's, in Worcester, since Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, confided to Rev. Thomas Griffin, his assistant, the care of this mission. In the same year, three acres of land, situated near the center of Holden, were purchased, and, on a portion of the land, the construction of a church was at once begun by Rev. Father Griffin. The size of the church was about sixty by thirty feet, and the cost \$3,500. The dedication took place August 16th, 1868, Rev. Father O'Reilly officiating.

For three years this church was attended from St. John's, in Worcester. In 1871 this mission of Holden was attached to West Boylston, where Rev. Anthony J. Derbuel was pastor.

In 1874, when the parish of the Immaculate Conception was formed, Holden became a part of this parish, and for ten years was under the care of Rev. Robert Walsh. During the administration of this priest the church was twice enlarged.

In 1884 the few Catholics of 1850 had become numerous enough to support a priest of their own, and accordingly Holden was made a parish, and given for its first pastor, Rev. James F. McCloskey. During his stay of two years a parochial residence adjoining the church was purchased. The church itself was repaired and frescoed.

Rev. Father McCloskey was succeeded by Rev. Thomas F. Joyce. While making preparations for still further improvements in the church property, he was taken suddenly ill, after a long, cold drive to attend a dying man, and died January 1st, 1888. He was buried in the central lot of the cemetery. It should be stated that he is the only clergyman, in the whole history of the town, who has died in active service.

In January, 1888, Rev. John D. McGann was appointed to the care of the parish. Finding that the old church on account of its position did not accommodate the majority of the parishioners, a new site for a church, comprising some three acres of land, upon which was also a house well fitted for a parochial residence, was purchased at Jefferson in the fall of 1889 at a cost of \$5,000. Repairs were made and grading was done at a cost of about \$2,000. On April 5th, 1890, the cellar of the new church was begun, and the edifice was completed in June, 1891.

The new church is a handsome wooden structure, one hundred and eight feet long by fifty-five feet wide, and thirty-one feet height of nave. On the north-west corner of the building, which faces due west, is a tower of graceful proportions, twelve feet square and seventy feet high, with an open belfry at the top. Four doors, two in front and one on each side, open into a vestibule extending across the entire width of the building and nine feet deep. Three entrances lead from the vestibule into the church proper, which is seventy-five feet long to the sanctuary rail. The sanctuary is twenty-seven feet wide and twenty-



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.

one foot deep. To the right of the sanctuary is the sacristy, and to the left is a small chapel which can be used for services attended by a limited congregation. At each side of the main church is a transept lighted by long and handsome arched windows. In the center of these transepts are placed the confessionals. In addition to the large side windows the church is well lighted from the top by a number of windows in the clear-story.

The sanctuary is handsomely and effectively designed. It is in shape a hexagon from each corner of which rises a slender column with carved capital supporting an elaborate cornice, the whole forming a very pleasing setting for the handsome high altar constructed with dome and lateral wings suited to the design of the church. At the west end is a gallery for the choir and organ. The whole interior is frescoed in deep, rich colors. The dome of the chancel is effectively shaded from old gold to blue, while the windows are handsomely finished with artistic stained glass. The building is heated by steam and lighted by gas made on the premises.

The church has a seating capacity of about five hundred, which can easily be increased to seven hundred. It is pleasing and appropriate in design, being in style an adaptation of a Roman basilica. The architect was Mr. Stephen C. Earle of Worcester. Waldo E. Austin of Holden, was the builder. Thomas Hennessy did the grading and the mason work.

The cost of the building, with all its furnishings, was \$16,000. Hon. Martin V. B. Jefferson generously contributed \$500 to the building fund. The large transept windows were the gifts respectively of the men and of the women of the parish. Other windows were the individual gifts of James Prendergast, John P. Spring, Arthur McDonald, Edward Rivers, William Moore, Thomas Hennessey, Dennis Harrington, Patrick Griffin and Joseph Guyotte.

The dedication took place June 28th, 1891. Splendid weather favored the ceremony, which was largely attended by many who were not members of the Church.

The services began at 10.30 o'clock with the usual solemn dedicatory exercises, the bishop and assisting clergy marching in solemn procession around the exterior of the building, reciting prayers and sprinkling holy water, followed by solemn high mass. This was sung by the following clergymen: Celebrant, Rev. Michael A. O'Kane, S. J., President of Holy Cross College; deacon, Rev. Daniel F. Feehan of St. Bernard's, Fitchburg; sub-deacon, Rev. Eugene F. Brosnahan of St. Anne's; master of ceremonies, Rev. John F. Redican of Cordaville.

The music of the mass was especially fine, members of St. Anne's, St. Stephen's and Immaculate Conception choirs assisting the local choir.

After the gospel the sermon of the day was preached by Very Rev. John J. Power, D. D., V. G., of St. Paul's, Worcester. Father Power spoke in substance as follows:

"I congratulate you on this auspicious occasion which marks the success of your undertaking, the completion of your beautiful church. You have reason to be proud of such an edifice. Your pastor also, who has labored so diligently to bring this work to a successful issue, has reason to feel proud, and I congratulate him on what he has accomplished. But now that the worry, the labor, the sacrifice involved in the erection of this edifice are happily passed, the question properly arises, what is the motive that impelled you to undergo them? Why have you built this church? You will answer, to advance the glory of God, to erect a temple to the Most High, from which sacrifice, praise and prayer shall ascend as pleasing incense before His throne.

"But how do you know that your action is pleasing to God? How do you know that the faith which inspires your action is divine? For, remember, it is not enough for us to know that as children of Catholic parents we were born into the Church. We must have reason for the faith that is in us. We must demonstrate our claim to the possession of God's revelation. God requires of us the homage of the mind and soul as well as of the heart. That our faith may be acceptable to Him it must be based upon our intelligent conception of its requirements. Without this intelligence the practice of our religion would be merely mechanical routine."

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“After all, then, it is not so much important that you build a church of stone or wood, ornamented with the work of the sculptor or the architect, as it is that you make yourselves the temples of the Holy Ghost, adorned with those virtues pleasing to the Almighty. You are the living material of God’s Church. You are the Church of God. Be then Catholics not in name merely, but in fact and deed. Be sincere, be honest, be consistent in the profession of your faith. Let not your lives bring scandal on your religion.”

Father Power then urged the study and practice of true religion. He counselled all families to have in their homes the Catechism, the Bible, and the works of Thomas A’Kempis.

At the post communion, Rt. Rev. Bishop O’Reilly made a brief address of congratulation to the parishioners on the acquisition of their new and handsome church, contrasting the small beginnings, as he remembered them from his early visits, with what he now saw.

The number of souls in the parish at present, 1892, is about nine hundred.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL meetings were held in town for many years. In the Minutes of the Methodist Episcopal Conferences, the name of Holden appears from 1841 to 1854. From 1841 to 1849, Holden is associated with Rutland, and Rev. Messrs. Charles H. Ainsworth, 1841-3; John M. Merrill, 1843-5; N. J. Merrill, 1845-6; Horace Moulton, 1846-7; Simon Putnam, 1847-8, and W. F. Lecount, 1848-9, served upon this circuit. For the year 1849-50, it was arranged that Holden should be supplied separately, but the name of the supply is not given. In 1850-1, it is again united with Rutland, and Rev. D. K. Merrill was appointed to the charge. In 1851-2, Holden is again separated from Rutland, and left as a mission “to be supplied.” In 1852-3, Rev. Simon Putnam was appointed to “Princeton and Holden.” In 1853-4, Holden is joined to Oakdale. In 1854 and thereafter, the charge is styled simply Oakdale. There have been Methodists in town ever since, but they have usually held membership at Oakdale. In addition to the names above men-

tioned, Rev. Messrs. Bayliss, Cook, Mackay, Munger, and Shedd are remembered by individuals as having labored here.

Among the leading workers of the denomination in town were John and Simon Abbott, John Bacon, Preston Bassett, Lemuel Fales, Simon Hubbard, and Aaron H. Rogers. No church edifice was ever erected or attempted. Meetings were held at the town hall, and in private houses at Quinapoxet, Unionville and Jefferson. A Sunday School and weekly prayer-meetings and class-meetings were sustained for many years, and many souls were helped into the divine life and in it by these patient endeavors of Christian workers.

UNIVERSALIST sentiment gained a foothold here as early as 1838, when the Congregational Church took up labor with Joel Blake for holding such views. Public services were held in the town hall in 1843, 1846, 1848, 1851 and 1853. Among others, Rev. Hosea Ballou sometimes came here to speak. These were merely occasional services, as no formal organization was ever made, though such sentiments have continued to be held and professed by individuals. Among the prominent adherents to Universalist views have been Asahel Clapp, Levi Smith, Levi Smith, Jr. and, Charles Turner.

ADVENT meetings were begun in about the year 1840, and were continued with more or less of regularity for nearly ten years. After being suspended for a time, they were resumed about 1857, and continued nearly twenty years. Many different preachers spoke here from time to time. Rev. Ezra T. Crowell was the only minister of this denomination who ever resided in town. Among others, the ministrations of Rev. Messrs. Miles Grant, William N. Pile, Horace Hastings and Thomas M. Preble are remembered.

There was no formal organization; a Sunday School, however, was held whenever there was preaching. John Richardson, Nathan Howe, Moses Smith, Dana Newton, Timothy Parker, Henry Parker and Howard Holden were among the leading men here of this denomination. Their work resulted

in some conversions and baptisms, and the meetings were very interesting to the participants.

A CHAPEL was built at Jefferson in 1884, for the convenience of those living in the vicinity, at a cost of not less than \$1,200. It was dedicated January 5th, 1885, Rev. George S. Dodge preaching on the occasion. For the control of the building, a society was organized under the name of "The Union Evangelical Society". Meetings on Sunday afternoons and on week evenings have since been regularly held.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS of the churches and the town, a goodly company, have gone out to labor in the gospel in this and other lands. The following who have resided in Holden, have entered the Christian ministry: Henry W. Baumann, John F. Bigelow, D. D., Charles Brooks, Joseph Cheney, Samuel C. Damon, D. D., George Darling, Samuel G. Darling, Elnathan Davis, Jonathan Fisher, John P. Foster, Samuel Willis Hamblen, Charles W. Holbrook, William Howe, D. D., William M. Hubbard, Albert C. Johnson, Abel Manning, James W. McLaughlin, John R. Murphy, Cyrus W. Perry, James M. Prendergast, Merrill Richardson, D. D., Adoniram J. Walker, Hervey D. Walker, John Walker, William S. Walker, Albert Weeks, Abraham Wheeler and Moses Winch.

Dea. Isaac Fisk was born in Holden, in 1790, and was a blacksmith by trade. After the death of his wife, Nancy, daughter of Ethan Davis, who was born June 14th, 1793, and died August 8th, 1813, he went out as a lay missionary among the Choctaw Indians. Arriving at his field in 1819, he survived but a single year, dying in 1820.

Mrs. Isabella G. Davis Clarke was born in Holden July 1st, 1828, married Rev. James F. Clarke, April 14th, 1859, and has labored in missionary work, at Philippopolis, Turkey, from 1859 to 1870, since then at Samokov, Bulgaria.

Mrs. Myra Fairbanks Eells went to the Pacific coast as a missionary among the Spokane Indians. She was born in Holden, May 26th, 1805, made a public profession of religion

at the age of thirteen, and the day after her marriage to Rev. Cushing Eells, which took place March 5th, 1838, started on her long journey. At that time, "it took nearly six months to make the trip, most of the time on horseback, and . . . but one company of white women, two in number, had ever made the journey. . . . For ten years she remained with the Indians in the Eastern part of this Territory [now the State of Washington]—as long as she could on account of Indian troubles."¹ She died August 9th, 1878.

Edward Bailey, born in Holden, February 14th, 1814, and his wife, Caroline Hubbard Bailey, born in Holden, August 13th, 1814, sailed for the Sandwich Islands, December 14th, 1836, where he served for many years as a teacher in the employ of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Samuel C. Damon, D. D., sailed March 10, 1842, from New York for Honolulu, where he spent his life as chaplain of the American Seaman's Friend Society.

Mrs. Eliza Ann Abbott Goddard, born in Holden, January 3d, 1817, married Rev. Josiah Goddard, in 1838, reached Siam 1840, and resided at Bangkok until 1848, when Mr. Goddard's health required a removal to Ningpo, China, which was thereafter the seat of their missionary labors until Mr. Goddard's death in 1854.

Mrs. Abigail P. Davis Goodell, a grand-daughter of the first pastor of the town, married, November 9th, 1822, William Goodell, D. D., the eminent missionary of the American Board, and spent her life laboring in Turkey till 1865, when, the infirmities of years affecting her husband, they returned to this country, to spend the evening of life in their native land.

Mrs. Hannah Davis Grout, born in Holden, February 26th, 1805, married Rev. Aldin Grout, November 17th, 1834. They sailed December 3d for the Zulu mission, in South Africa, but war among some of the native tribes prevented their pursuing their journey, and they landed at Algoa Bay, and pro-

¹ Address, by her son, Rev. Myron Eells, on the occasion of her death.

ceeding to Bethelsdorp, seven miles distant, took houses temporarily on an English mission station. While awaiting the removal of the obstructions in their way, pulmonary disease ended her life, February 24th, 1836.

Mrs. Charlotte Bailey Grout, was born in Holden, June 21st, 1811, and married Rev. Aldin Grout November 23d, 1838. They sailed for South Africa March 7th, 1840, reaching Cape Town May 12th, Natal soon after, and the Zulu Country the next year. Later, however, it became advisable to make Natal the seat of their missionary labors, where they toiled, with the exception of a return to Holden in 1857, for a visit of eighteen months, until 1870, when they finally returned to this country, making their home in Springfield.

Rev. Samuel W. Hamblen, was born at Centre Lovell, Me., September 12th, 1862, fitted for college at Worcester Academy, and was graduated from Brown University in 1886, and from the Newton Theological Institution in 1889. He was ordained September 26th, 1889, at North Berwick, Me., whither his father had removed from Holden, and started for Japan in October of the same year. The seat of his missionary labors is Sendai, Japan.

CHAPTER VIII.

SCHOOLS AND LIBRARY.

FIRST SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL HOUSES. — COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS. — SELECT SCHOOLS. — HIGH SCHOOL. — COLLEGE GRADUATES. — HOLDEN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. — GALE FREE LIBRARY.



THE first meeting of the town held for the transaction of business, it was voted to have a reading and writing school. What measures were taken for the carrying of that vote into effect are not recorded. At a special town meeting held May 11th, 1752, the following votes were passed in reference to a school :

“voted that the Town are of the min to provid a writing and reading chool master

“Voted that the School shall be kept this year three mounth at Mr Joseph Hubbard’s House and the other three mounth at y^e House of Lev^{nt} Cyprian Stevens and that the first three mounth in the next year shall be kept in the Center of the Town near the meeting-house and that the next three mounth shall be kept at y^e House of m^r Jonathan Lovel and the next three mounth shall be kept at the House of Le^{nt} Richard Flagg. further voted . . . to choose a committee of three men to provid a master to keep said school. Mes^{rs} Capt John Biglo Isarieal Davis and Samuel Hubbuard chosen and voted to be a committee to provid a School-master to keep y^e School as above mentioned.”

Curiously enough the original order of the committee and receipt of the school teacher for that very year have been preserved. They read thus :

“ To Mr Joseph Hubbard Treasurer for the town of Holden Sir Pursuant to an order from the Selectmen of this town to you to pay unto us the money due for teaching the School these are therefore to desire you to pay unto John Young the Sum of three pounds twelve shillings lawful money of this Provance and his Receipt Shall be your discharge for so much given under our hands this 2^d day of May 1753.

JOHN BIGLO SAMUEL HUBBURD ISRAEL DAVIS	}	Comtee For the Town of Holden for the School”
--	---	---

“ These are to Certify whom it may concern that when I kept School at Lieu^{nt} Steeven’s in Holden my wages was one pound four shillings p^r month for three months which was three pounds twelve shillings in all of which Mr Jotham Biglo paid me two pounds given under my hand this 12th of Nov^{br} 1754.

JOHN YOUNG.”

In 1753, twelve pounds were appropriated for the schools, and it was voted that the school be kept that year in three places, at the center, at the east end and at the west end of the town, and that the families at the north end of the town, three in number, and at the south end of the town, four in number, be allowed to draw their proportion of money, for time past as well as that year, out of the town treasury to provide schooling among themselves. The same year it was voted to build a school-house at the center, and in 1754 it was refused to reconsider the vote. It is, however, uncertain whether the school-house was actually built. In 1758 no less than sixty pounds was raised for the school. In 1761 it was further voted to go on and finish the school-house according to the old vote. May 19th, 1760, the easterly part of the town was given liberty to build a school-house for themselves, and released or exempted from building any other in town. In 1774, thirty pounds, exclusive of the lime lot, were voted for schools, ten pounds being voted the same year for necessary charges and eighty pounds for the support of the gospel. The rate at which it was laid out may be gathered from the following order :

“Dea. Hubburd and Cap Amos Heywood they Being a commity for the Lime Lot money Pleas to Pay amos Heywood Jr four Pounds one Shiling & two Pence for keeping a School in the west End of the Town and Bording him Selfe three weeks & a half it being in full. and his Endorse shall be your Discharge

Holden march 28th 1774

JOHN CHILD	} Selectmen of Holden”
BENJN MEAD	
JAMES DAVIS	
JONA RICE	
PAUL RAYMOND	

In the course of the first half century of town history, the district system was practically introduced, though near that time the Selectmen were authorized to engage school-masters. There were no school-mistresses in those days, as is shown by the following record, bearing the date of May 22d, 1772, “Put to Vote to see if y^e town would grant any of the School Money to a woman school & it passed in the Negative.” The districts of those days bore the name of “squadrons.” In 1793, the sum of £400 was raised for the building of school-houses upon certain conditions. The records of the special town meeting, held by adjournment March 18th, 1793, read thus :

“To see if the Town will vote to raise any sum or sums of money to build school-houses in said Town and have it assessed into a tax for that purpose, upon the following Conditions (Viz) that if any of the squadrons in said Town think they need a house, and have a mind to build one, may have the benifit of the above mentioned assesment, for that purpose.—at the same time giving full liberty to any one or more squadrons that think they need not a school house and chuse rather to keep their school in some convenient Dwelling house, they may have Liberty therefor, and likewise to call upon the selectmen for orders to sink their Rate that shall be made for that purpose, upon the following Conditions (viz) that if ever hereafter any of the above mentioned squadrons so Refusing or neglecting to build a House by s^d Tax, should think they need a school house and agree to build one, that they shall do it within themselves with out applying to the Town for any assistance only their proportion of tax arising from the Nonrisedents that shall be assessed to their squadron

“N. B. the selectmen to be oblig’d to give orders to the squadrons Refusing or Neglecting as above said to build a house by the assessment as above mentioned—Each squadron that builds a house to have a right to their own money and no other

“Voted to raise £400 to build school houses in said Town upon the above mentioned Conditions—said money Voted to be assessed by the next Valuation.”

That the eastern district or squadron accepted these terms, we are assured by an old statement of account which has been preserved, and contains some items not considered absolutely essential for the proper construction of school-houses now-a-days. What would the tax payers of the present day think of such items as the following, which excited no comment in 1793?

“Holden Octr 25th 1793

Mess^{rs} WEBB, DRURY & DODDS

School Committe for the Eastern District

To Aaron White		Drs
To 1 Gall ⁿ NE Rum & 1½ Sugar	@ 5/2	£0..5..2
26 To 1 M 10 ^d Nails	@ 8/	0..8..0
Nov 8 To ½ M 10 ^d Nails & ¼ M 20 ^d D ^o	@ 7/	0..7..0
13 To 1 Qt NE Rum	@ 1/	0..1..0”

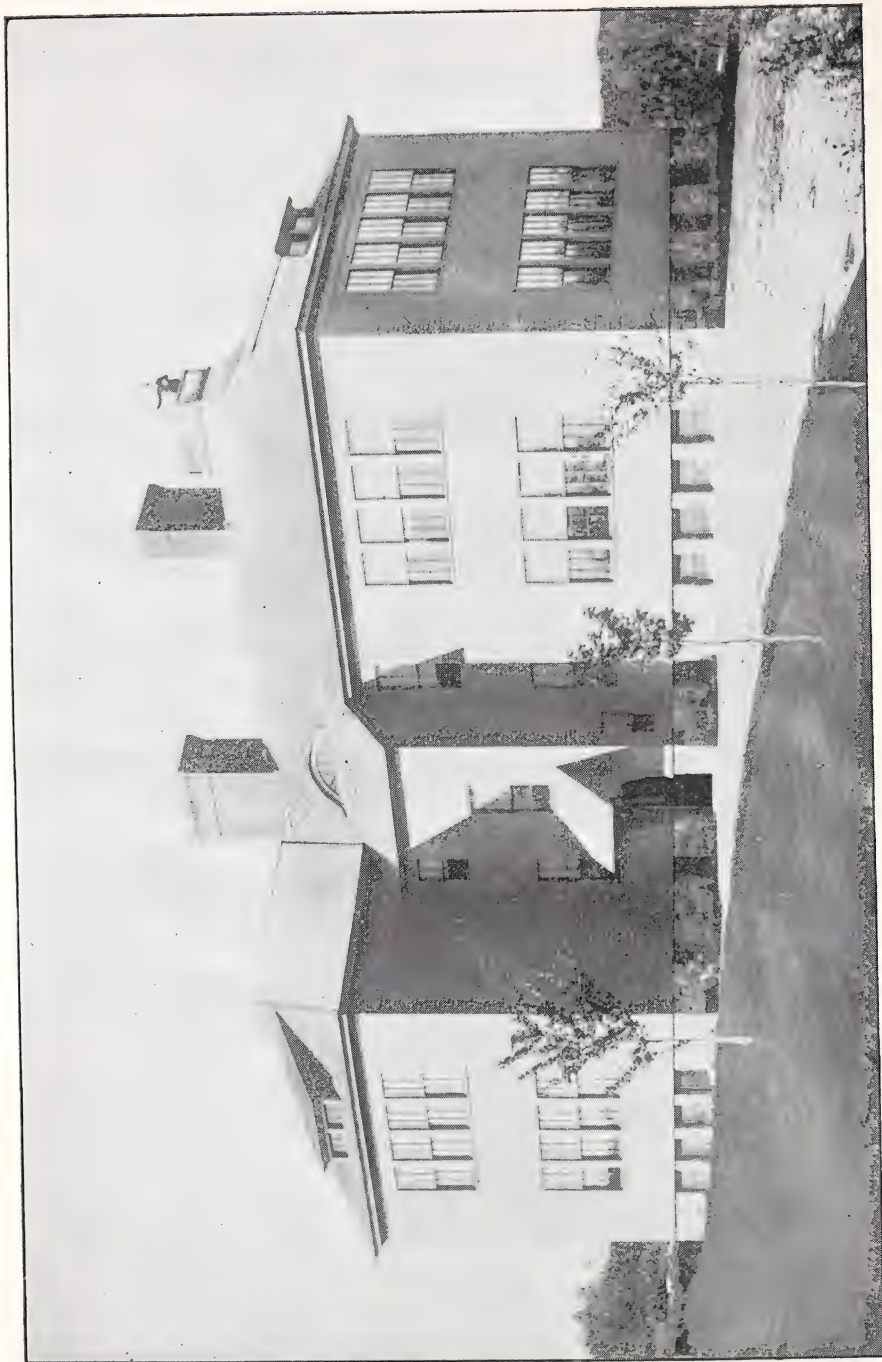
In 1791 the sum of seventy pounds was raised for the support of schools. In 1841 \$800 was similarly appropriated. In 1838, it had been voted that the several districts might choose their own prudential committees, and they had already gained the right to contract with their own teachers. It was customary that the selectmen and assessors should divide the money among the several districts, the usual custom being “half on the pay and half on the scholar”. The rule was this:—“One-half in proportion to the amount of tax assessed in each district, and the other half in proportion to the number of persons between the ages of three and twenty-one;” a limited discretion in favor of the smaller districts being also sometimes allowed. A division into districts had prevailed for a long time, but in 1838, the whole matter of the distribution

into districts was referred to a special committee, who redivided the town into twelve districts, a partition, which stood substantially unchanged until the district system was abolished in 1869.

The first committee to visit the schools was chosen at the annual meeting in 1825. Thereafter it became a regular institution. The first committee consisted of Rev. Horatio Bardwell, Rev. John Walker, Col. Samuel Damon, George Estabrook, M. D., and Dennis Davis, Esq. It was the usual custom to put the pastors of the churches at the head of this committee, and Dr. Paine served in this office for more than thirty years.

The districts became steadily more and more independent of each other, so that after a time it was the exception that the town elected the prudential committee for any district. Indeed after the districts were abolished by act of Legislature the town persisted for a time in choosing twelve men, one to represent each of the old districts. In 1869 the town purchased the school houses from the districts at their value as appraised by three men out of town, the total cost to the town being \$8,762. It was not till 1877, that the school committee was reduced to three members, and it has varied since between three and six members. In 1872, the town authorized the committee to elect a Superintendent of Schools, and William C. Metcalf was chosen and served during that school year. The next year James T. Rood, M. D. filled the same office. Clifford W. Stickney, M. D. was chosen Superintendent in 1883, and served the three years next ensuing. In 1890, Holden united with Leicester to take advantage of the new law of the state, and secured Charles E. Stevens to give his whole time to the schools of the two towns. He continued to fill the position till June, 1892. Benjamin F. Robinson has become his successor.

The care of their schools has always been important in the eyes of the citizens of Holden. They were never more earnest in their devotion to this object than at present. The expenditures for school purposes for the last fiscal year amounted to \$7,964.12. For three years out of the last four, according to



SCHOOL HOUSE, JEFFERSON.

the State Board of Education, Holden has stood among the first in the Commonwealth, and the very first in all Worcester County in the percentage of taxable property devoted to school purposes.

To narrate the story of the school-houses in every district would be unprofitable, but the late history of the school-houses at Jefferson deserves record. In 1873, the town built a large, two-room building at a cost of \$4,000. The growth of the villages rendering this inadequate, in 1885, a four-room building was erected at a cost of \$4,312.48. June 4th, 1891, this was destroyed by fire. A six-room building was as speedily as possible put up on the same site, and opened for use February 1st, 1892. This school-house was built from plans furnished by Messrs. Barker & Nourse. It is fitted with the best modern appliances for heating and ventilation, and the furniture is throughout of the best and most approved patterns. The whole cost was \$10,500, of which less than \$5,000 was received as insurance on the old building.

For many years a select school was kept in town every fall, the teacher in charge receiving tuition fees and paying all expenses. Among those mentioned by Dr. Damon as having taught before 1841, were Edward P. Humphrey, Aldin Grout, William Howe, Merrill Richardson, and Samuel C. Damon. Since that time Messrs. David Burt, James F. Clark, Joseph W. Cross, Jr., John B. Goodwin, Reuben Holmes, Charles G. Keyes, Sylvanus B. Roel, and Charles P. Wyman are remembered as having taught. Miss Nancy Perry taught the last term of such schools in 1868.

In their annual report for the year ending March 1st, 1880, the school committee recommended the establishment of a High School, and the town accordingly authorized it. The school was opened in the spring of 1880, under Miss Cornelia M. Thurston, who remained but a single term. In September, 1880, Mr. Alonzo K. Learned began his duties as principal, a relation which still continues unbroken. During these years more than five hundred pupils have come under his instructions. He has been assisted by Miss Eudora F. Hayes, one term;

Doran B. Coxe, two terms; William C. Whiting, two years; Charles C. Jackson, one term; Miss Lucy W. Cain, one term; Miss Lizbeth M. Larned, three years; Miss Agnes Sample, one term; Miss Mary E. Buzzell, two years. The High School was taught in the upper story of the Center school-house until September, 1888, when it entered the tasteful and commodious rooms provided for it by the liberality of Mr. Gale, in the Damon Memorial.

The graduates of the High School have been :

CLASS OF 1884.

Harry C. Bascom,	Mary F. McLaughlin, ²
Nellie M. Bascom,	Sadie I. Packard,
Leila S. Boyden,	Alice E. Stone. ³
Edith H. Davis, ¹	

CLASS OF 1886.

Herbert E. Austin,	Lula F. Merrick, ⁴
Maud E. Davis,	Sadie I. Morse, ⁵
T. Walter Howe,	Sara F. Perry, ⁶
Raymond D. Hubbard,	Gertrude E. Talbot. ⁷

CLASS OF 1887.

Josephine S. Ames, ⁸	Bertha M. Drury,
Susie L. Austin,	Bertram S. Newell,
Carrie E. Bascom,	Mary Helen Rogers.

CLASS OF 1888.

George C. Johnson,	Grace F. Mulcahy,
Lizzie E. Moore.	William J. Powers.

CLASS OF 1889.

Winifred S. Clark.

¹ Mrs. Frank Richardson. ² Mrs. Frank W. Hopkins. ³ Mrs. Arthur H. Parker, died December 6th, 1890. ⁴ Mrs. John Johnson. ⁵ Mrs. Fred E. Sanborn. ⁶ Mrs. William C. Whiting. ⁷ Mrs. Samuel F. Powers. ⁸ Died September 16th, 1891.

CLASS OF 1890.

Maud E. Graham,
Bernice I. Lovell,¹

Waldo B. Truesdell.

CLASS OF 1891.

Lucy P. Boyden,
Florence P. Davis,
Lucy A. Dodge,²
Catharine A. Dowd,
Lois M. Hubbard,

Florence L. Johnson,
Mattie C. Johnson,
E. Frank Kelton,³
Mary E. Putnam,⁴
Harris W. Moore.

CLASS OF 1892.

F. Marguerite Davis,⁵
Helen L. Davis,
Annie W. Fales,

Charlie E. Jordan,
Maud A. Moulton,
Alice L. Parker.

The following are known to have gone to college from this town :

Jonathan Fisher,	Harvard,	1792.
Joseph Cheney,	Brown,	1801.
Abraham Wheeler,	Williams,	1810.
Abel Manning,	Brown,	1817.
Moses Winch,	Amherst,	1827.
Elnathan Davis,	Williams,	1834.
David Fisk, ⁶	Amherst,	1834.
John P. Foster,	Amherst,	1834.
William Howe,	Waterville,	1834.
Merrill Richardson,	Middlebury,	1835.
Henry G. Darling,	Williams,	1835.
Samuel C. Damon,	Amherst,	1836.
Samuel D. Darling,	Williams,	1836.
James H. Bailey, ⁷	Amherst,	1845.
John F. Bigelow, ⁸	Brown,	1845.
George Darling,	Union,	1846.
Charles W. Holbrook,	Williams,	1851.

¹ Mrs. Fred A. Bryant. ² Rutland. ³ Hubbardston. ⁴ Rutland. ⁵ Princeton. ⁶ Died in 1834, before graduation. ⁷ Did not graduate. ⁸ Did not graduate.

Charles Brooks, ¹	Brown,	1856.
Cyrus W. Perry,	Amherst,	1862.
Harlan W. Moore, ²	Amherst,	1865.
Henry W. Warren,	Yale,	1865.
Arthur R. Paine,	Amherst,	1871.
James W. McLaughlin, ³	Holy Cross,	1879.
Mary Louisa Ball, ⁴	Wellesley,	1880.
John R. Murphy,	Holy Cross,	1880.
Samuel W. Hamblen,	Brown,	1886.
James M. Prendergast,	Holy Cross,	1886.
Harry C. Bascom,	Tufts,	1889.
Waterman L. Williams,	Amherst,	1891.
Susie L. Austin,	Vassar,	1895.
Herbert L. Warren,	Amherst,	1895.

The following have gone to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute : Solon P. Davis, class of 1872 ; Jonathan L. Moore, 1872 ; Charles E. Davis, 1875 ; Fred C. Greenwood, 1878 ; Charles W. Phillips, 1878 ; George A. Marsh, 1882 ; Charles A. Bennett, 1886 ; Herbert E. Austin, 1890 ; Henry L. Phillips, 1893 ; Harris W. Moore, 1894. Charles S. Graham graduated from the Massachusetts Agricultural College in the class of 1892. Charles H. Parker entered the same college, but left without graduating.

THE HOLDEN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION was organized October 4th, 1876. Col. Isaac N. Ross was chosen President, Horace B. Morse, Vice-President, William D. Chenery, Secretary and Treasurer, and Mrs. Ellen Phelps, Librarian, a position which she filled during the history of the Association. Funds for its support were raised by subscription, public lectures and an annual assessment of its members. It embraced in its membership men and women who gave to the conduct of its affairs untiring attention and well directed effort.

¹ Did not graduate. ² Killed in Union army, March 1st, 1864. His name appears with his class in the catalogues of Amherst College in accordance with a vote of the Trustees applying to all undergraduates who lost their lives in the Civil War. ³ Did not graduate. ⁴ Mrs. Loren L. Morrison.

The books were widely circulated and read. It was a worthy precursor of the Gale Free Library, in that it awakened a desire for books and a love of them.

In July, 1888, a special meeting of the Association was called to take action in reference to presenting the Library to the town, which, with the books presented by Mr. Samuel C. Gale, should form a Free Public Library; and it was voted: "That the Trustees of The Holden Library Association be authorized and directed to transfer the books and other property belonging to the Association to the proper authorities of the town of Holden, whenever the said town shall vote to accept the same in accordance with the constitutional provisions of the Association." This proposition was accepted by the town, and, in accordance with the vote, fourteen hundred volumes were transferred to the Gale Free Library.

The following was placed on record by the town, September 26th, 1888, in recognition of the gift.

"The Town of Holden, in accepting the gift of the books belonging to the Holden Library Association, desires to express its appreciation of the desire for culture which has made that Association so successful, and its gratitude for the liberality with which the whole Library has now been placed at the service of all our citizens."

As soon as the establishment of a public library was assured, Mr. John Wadsworth of Chicago sent a check for one hundred dollars, to be used in the purchase of books. The following is the recorded expression of thanks of the town:

"The Town of Holden would respectfully express its thanks to Mr. John Wadsworth of Chicago, for the gift of one hundred dollars for the purchase of books for the Gale Free Library. The town is grateful to be remembered by a former citizen, and to receive a gift so well-timed and useful."

While the Damon Memorial was building, Mr. Gale gave to the town the sum of \$3,000, for the purchase of books. Many of the books were bought and placed upon the shelves before the presentation and dedication of the edifice. In accord-

ance with the conditions of the gift the town appointed trustees to manage the estate and library, who voted unanimously that the library should be known as "The Gale Free Library."

The Trustees of the Library have been David F. Estes, 1888-1891, Waldo E. Austin, 1888, Alonzo K. Learned, 1888, Charles E. Parker, 1888, Emory Rogers, 1888, Henry W. Warren, 1888, Clifford W. Stickney, 1892. The building and grounds were cared for by James D. Black until his death, January 11th, 1892. Mrs. Addie Black Holden was chosen Librarian immediately upon the organization of the Trustees, and the Library was opened for the circulation of books, November 30th, 1888. The Dewey Decimal System of classification was adopted, and a catalogue was issued March 22d, 1890. The total number of readers' cards issued up to March 1st, 1892, was five hundred and ninety-nine, and the circulation of books for home use, for the year 1891-2, was six thousand three hundred and thirty-four. March 1st, 1892, the date of the last report, not including public documents, there were three thousand six hundred and ninety-seven volumes in the Library.



DAMON MEMORIAL.

CHAPTER IX.

THE DAMON MEMORIAL.

TENDER FROM MR. GALE. — DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING. —
PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION. — ADDRESSES BY MESSRS.
LEARNED, EARLE, GALE, PARKER AND HIGGINSON. — ODE.



THE annual town meeting, March 21st, 1887, the committee, which had been chosen the preceding November to investigate the matter of additional school accomodation at the Center, presented to the town the following letter :

“MINNEAPOLIS, March 15, 1887.

“*Maj. Isaac Damon, Holden, Mass.*

“DEAR SIR : I have delayed sending to you my final decision in the matter of the public building to be erected on the Chenery lot, until I could look up the subject thoroughly. In accordance with your suggestion, your High School Principal has written a full and satisfactory letter touching the needs of the High School.

“I am now able to say, that, unless prevented by some misfortune, I shall commence the present season to erect upon the Chenery lot a building adapted to both High School and Library purposes. I design to have the walls completed and the roof on before next winter, and have the same fully completed ready for occupancy as early as September, 1888.

“This building and ground, together with some books, which we hope to add, my wife and I will present to the Town of Holden as a free gift, subject only to some simple and reasonable conditions as to care and support of the structure and its equipment on the part of the town.

"I write this letter now, that the people of the town may have assurance that both School and Library accommodations will be provided for without any steps being taken by the town at its coming meeting.

"Yours very Sincerely,

SAMUEL C. GALE."

The following resolutions were immediately adopted by a rising vote of the town:—

"*Resolved*, That our sincere thanks are hereby tendered Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Gale, of Minneapolis, Minn., for their very generous proposal, the fulfillment of which will be a perpetual memorial of their generosity and thoughtfulness.

"*Resolved*, That a copy of these Resolutions be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Gale, and that they be entered upon the records of the town."

Mr. Gale at once proceeded to carry out the plans outlined in the above letter, and the edifice was completed in August, 1888. The cost of building and grounds exceeded forty-five thousand dollars. The architect who furnished the plans and supervised the construction was Mr. Stephen C. Earle of Worcester. The building stands on a large, elevated site, next to the Common, and nearly opposite to the Damon estate. The style is Romanesque, of a rustic, vigorous character, suited to the material. It is built of stone from the Holden quarry,¹ laid with unusual painstaking in irregular ashlar, with seam-faces of many tints, and is pointed with red joints. The rustic character is emphasized by the huge uncut boulder which serves the purpose of a buttress at the end of the steps to the main entrance, and also by a smaller boulder built into and boldly projecting from the tower wall, and bearing the inscription, "DAMON MEMORIAL 1888." For sills, lintels, arches and other parts requiring more or less cutting, brown sandstone from Longmeadow was used, which makes a very agreeable combination with the native granite. It is left uncut as far as

¹ On the old Kendall place, now occupied by John B. Dodd.

possible, with the notable exception of a panel five by eight feet, placed in the middle of a large space in the south wall, which is sculptured in bold relief. This panel, a spirited and beautiful work, has for its motive the enlightening influence of education, represented by an advancing figure, floating rather than walking, carrying a flaming torch in the right hand, and in the left an open book. In a quaint, bold inscription at the left is the legend, "Let there be light," and corresponding on the other side, "Character is destiny."

In ground plan the building is nearly square, being sixty-two by sixty-five feet, relieved on the south side by a semi-circular bay projecting nine feet, and on the northeast corner by a clock and bell tower eighteen feet square, rising to a height of sixty-four feet. The tower has a specially bold and massive character, taking a firm footing on the ground with its heavy buttresses, which run half way up its height until lost in the face of the wall. It is kept as low as its purposes will allow. A low arcaded belfry makes the top story, with its pyramidal roof covered with red slate. Directly below the belfry, on two sides, are open dials of black iron for the Howard clock. In the belfry hangs a bell, selected by Mr. Gale himself for its sweetness. The main building has a high pitched, hip roof, somewhat broken by gables and dormer windows, and covered with black Maine slate.

At the main entrance, in the middle of the east front, is a massive round arch of fifteen feet span, and an open porch seven by seventeen feet, with a floor of dark red tiles.

Two separate entrances from the porch have wide arched doorways, in the stone transoms of which, respectively, are cut the words "School" and "Library". The school entrance at the right has a vestibule seven by nine feet, with tiled floor, and opens into a spacious hall, from which a handsome stairway, of liberal dimensions and very easy grade, leads to the second story, which is fourteen feet high, and is entirely appropriated to the uses of the high school. Opposite the entrance is a stained glass arched window, of simple but rich design; over the windows on the first landing are perforated stone transoms

filled with stained glass bull's-eyes, geometrically arranged, and a bit of quiet coloring is seen in the round window at the head of the stairs.

Opposite the landing is a door to the main school room, at the right a door to the girls' cloak room, which is eleven by fourteen feet, and at the left the boys' coat room, which is seven by fourteen feet. Both of these rooms also connect directly with the main school room. The principal's cosy room, ten by thirteen feet, occupies the tower, and with windows on three sides commands charming views to the north, east and south. This room opens from the stairway hall. From this hall is also a stairway leading to the tower lofts and the unfinished attic. The main school room is forty by forty-six feet, besides its semi-circular bay window, seven feet deep, projecting from the south side of the room, opposite the entrance.

The room is admirably lighted by five windows on the west side and three on the south, being at the left and back of the pupils, while a broad wall space between the south windows and the bay, directly opposite the teacher's platform, affords an agreeable relief from the glare of the mid-day sun.

On the east side is a very ample fire-place of pressed brick, with a handsome oak mantel. Connecting with the school-room on the east is a recitation room about fourteen by thirty-two feet, so arranged that it may be used as two rooms on occasion, and another, sixteen by twenty-three feet, occupies the northwest corner of the building. This room has closets for chemical and physical apparatus. The basement of the building, besides the steam heating apparatus for both direct and indirect radiation, contains also a well lighted, pleasant southeast room with a handsome fireplace and mantel, which is appropriated to the use of the school as a lunch room. Water is supplied for all purposes from a well sunk on the premises. There is an outer door on the north side for the boys, and one at the northerly extreme of the west side for the girls, with connecting corridor and covered way, giving convenient access to outbuilding and yard.

Turning now to the portion of the building devoted to the library, we enter the tiled vestibule, seven by eight feet, and from this the space railed off from the main room, to be used as a waiting room. The room devoted to the storage of books, like the story throughout, is fourteen feet high, occupies the southwest corner of the building, and is thirty-one by forty feet. It is lighted by nine lofty windows. Shelving is now arranged for five or six thousand volumes, and should need arise, the book room could be arranged to accommodate twenty thousand. It is separated from the waiting room by a screen, the upper part of which consists of an arch of open timber work, the lower part being the desk for the delivery of books, and the supplementary railing. At the northwest corner of the building, and connecting with the book room is the librarian's work room which is about twelve by twenty-five feet, and has an outside door.

The southeast corner of the building is reserved for the reading room, which is twenty by twenty-eight and one-half feet, besides its semi-circular bay projecting seven feet on the south side, opposite the entrance. It adjoins the book room and the waiting room, being separated from each by glazed screen work. It is a most attractive room, with its ample fireplace and oak mantel of tasteful design, chimney corner seat, tinted walls and delicately shaded stained glass transoms. A low case for books of reference fills the whole of the west side, and two large tables for periodicals stand in the room.

The building throughout is finished with oak in the natural color. The carpenter work was done by Emory Rogers, who had also general charge of the whole work. Thomas Hennessey did the stone work, Peter Carr the brick work and plastering, and the walls and ceilings were tinted by Daniel Boyden. It was the intent of Mr. Gale that all material and labor for the building, so far as possible, should be derived from the town of Holden. However considered, the structure deserves the title which it has received, "The Gem of Worcester County."

The formal exercises of the Presentation and Dedication of the Damon Memorial occurred August 29th, 1888. The day

was very fine, and many visitors came from neighboring towns and from a distance to share with the citizens of Holden in the interest and pleasure of the day.

The public exercises of the morning were held in the Congregational church, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion, in the presence of an audience which thronged the church. After a selection by the Marlboro' Brass Band, which furnished the music for the day, Rev. William G. Tuttle offered prayer. Mr. Alonzo K. Learned, the President of the Day, then gave the following Address of Welcome :

“ Ladies and Gentlemen :— This morning, so bright and beautiful, is indicative of the welcome we extend to each. We are glad that, whether living by the sea, in the city, by the mountains, or on the distant prairie, a common impulse has moved so many of the sons and daughters of Holden to return and join in the festivities of the day—*the day* of the slowly rolling century in the history of the town. The familiar paths, the old homestead and school-house, the village green, this old church, though mute, unite with us in cordial salutation. Whether participating in the exercises of the day, meeting with friends, renewing old associations, treading with careful step the place

‘ Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap,’

or standing by the memorial raised to the memory of parents, brother, or sister,—may all the hours be filled with pleasure, benediction, and blessing to each of you.

“ Welcome to those men and women, distinguished in the walks of life, who are with us to-day. We feel that the occasion is in unison with the efforts you are putting forth to lift man

‘ To a purer air and a broader view.’

May the breath of the hills, the warmth of our hospitality, the spirit pervading these exercises, the bright outlook which generous thought and generous hands have opened to the people of this town, cheer and strengthen you.

“ Cordial greeting to the honored official representative of the city of Worcester, to the members of bench and bar, to her accomplished librarian, to her teachers, eminent for learning and ability, to her honored business men, to all her citizens, whose united life constitutes the purity of the life of the ‘ Heart of the Commonwealth’.

“To the citizens of adjoining towns, who, in response to invitation, or who, moved by neighborly feeling, are present to offer congratulations, we extend the hand of welcome.

“Welcome one and all to this historic ground, given by the Hon. John Hancock to the early settlers for a public common, and a site for a church, where for many generations, men, in the exercise of the rights of freemen, have met in times of peace and prosperity, in times of danger and alarm, to transact business for the common welfare, or to discern from a common consideration the path of duty and of honor.

“Welcome to this historic and hallowed church, within whose walls the generations of the past have met, feeling a common need, humbly praying for a common blessing, and finding it ‘none other than the house of God and the gate of heaven’.

“At a town meeting, the second in the history of the town, held May 19th, 1741, the legal voters first passed the following vote :

“‘Voted to have the gospel preached in town’. The fourth vote of that meeting was : ‘Voted to have a reading and writing school.’

“In happy accordance with the spirit animating those men, in happy accord with all that noble men have planned for the public welfare in

‘Yonder painted shingly town-house,’

in happy accord with the purest aspirations of those who have trod

‘These quiet aisles of prayer,’

is the occasion which has assembled us to-day.

“Yonder ‘Memorial Building’ is but the completion of the structure, the foundations of which the men of Holden laid in 1741. It is the tribute which persons reared and educated in New England gladly offer to the wisdom of the fathers in establishing a system of free public schools for the education of the children of a free republic.

“That we may more fully understand the plans and purposes of the donors, the beauty and utility of the structure, and learn what workmen have wrought from foundation to turret stone, I present to you the architect, Mr. Stephen C. Earle, of Worcester.”

Mr. Earle said :

“One bright March day of last year found me, at the request of him whose wisdom and generosity makes the occasion for this glad

gathering, viewing the site proposed for a building designed to meet the pressing needs of this old town of Holden in two important particulars, viz., first, a public library, and second, better accommodations for the high school. The glistening, crusted snow covered the whole landscape, but then, as now, the fitness of the site selected was apparent. There was the beautiful and ample lot, with its graceful, central knoll, where the half filled-cellar told of a home of the past, with a location all that could be desired.

“In the middle of the village, only a stone’s throw from Main Street, nearly opposite the old Damon mansion, directly adjoining the Common, the Damon Memorial becomes one among the group of the town’s public buildings. In the first instructions to the architect was the statement that the building was to be of brick or stone, preferably the latter, a preference on the part of a client which is always heartily seconded by the architect. Some one has said that a brick building, however large, cannot be made grand or imposing. Without arguing the point, it will at once be conceded that even a small building of stone has a certain dignity, due to the materials, whatever the treatment of it. In this building the stone has an added value, a sentimental one at least, from its being indigenous, coming from the granite quarry of John P. Dodd, on one of the Holden hills, about a mile distant.¹

“You may judge of the material value of the generous outlay of those benefactors who have here built a permanent home for your library and school, but few can have an idea of the intense and constant interest, the loving thought and care with which they, from their distant home, have inspired and watched every detail of design and construction. My task has been a pleasant one, working out with such success as I might their high ideals.

“Though ‘westward the star of empire takes its way’, and with it many of the brightest and best among us, let us be thankful that the heart strings still bind them in love to their old eastern homes.”

Mr. Learned then introduced Mr. Gale in the following words :

“It is said that Anaxagoras, beholding the Mausoleum erected by Artemisia, Queen of Caria, to her deceased husband, Mausolus,

¹ The description of the building, given on this occasion by Mr. Earle, has already been given in substance in this chapter.

which was constructed of the most costly marbles and decorated in the highest style of Grecian art, exclaimed, 'How much money is changed into stone!' From the statement of Mr. Earle, confirmed by our own observation and knowledge, we are ready, when viewing the massive proportions, completeness, and elegance of the Memorial, to exclaim, 'How much money is changed into wood and stone!' Artemisia, in erecting the Mausoleum, would enshrine and perpetuate the memory of her husband, thus exhibiting one of the most beautiful sentiments of the human heart. Our friends, animated by the same sentiment, would perpetuate the name of a family, honorably identified not only with the history of the town, the county, the state, and the nation, but also with the progress of civilization and Christianity in other lands and the islands of the distant seas, by linking it with the 'living present' and the long future. The 'Memorial,' while casting its loving shadow over the ancestral roof, through whose garden gate five generations have passed, welcomes to its lofty halls the youth of the present and future generations and places in the hand of each 'a good book, the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up for a purpose of life beyond life.'"

Mr. Gale was greeted with hearty applause, and made the following Presentation Address:

"*Mr. President and Friends:* Thirty-four years ago, I came to this village to teach the district school. The frame school-house, still standing, and in use, was then new, and was a subject of much interest and pride. The only instruction I received from the school committee as to the management of the school was that I should keep the scholars from marking and scratching the new school-house. I entirely neglected my duty in this respect. At the end of the winter, marks and scratches were very abundant; and I knew it was all my fault, for no school-master ever had better boys and girls. After thinking over my offense for thirty-four years I concluded the only suitable recompense I could make was to give the town a new school-house, which I have accordingly done. I do not say, however, there were no other considerations and more serious, for the enterprise. Here my wife was born and reared; and this, in the opinion of at least her husband, entitles the place to monumental honors. May I also mention especially her brother, the late Dr. Samuel C. Damon, a

resident of Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, a great-hearted and broad-minded man, with a deep affection for his native town. He it was who first suggested to me the idea of aiding to establish here a public library. It is in memory of him, and of her other kinspeople¹ and other friends dear to us both, whose homes have been here in this and other generations, that we have sought to do this town some good thing, so important and permanent that the inhabitants will always kindly remember us.

“Mr. President, I hold in my hands and now deliver, title papers conveying to the town of Holden, from my wife and myself, the new Library and High School Building and grounds. The conveyance is made in trust and upon the conditions that the town shall, under the law of Massachusetts, organize a Board of Trustees to manage the estate and library; that the town keep the building in repair and continue the insurance of \$10,000 already placed upon it, with premium paid for five years; that the library be also kept insured and that both the building and library shall be restored in case of destruction or impairment; that the grounds shall be kept in neat and tasteful order, appropriately adorned with flowers; that the town shall maintain a Free Public Library and Reading-room in the building and shall appropriate and expend annually, of its own money, not less than \$200 for the purchase of new works for the library; that the school held in the building shall always be free to the inhabitants of Holden, and shall be at least equal to a High School in grade. I trust these conditions will not seem unreasonable or burdensome. They certainly have been made after much thought, solely to secure to the public the greatest benefit possible from this undertaking.

“At the last, friends, we part with this estate, so interesting has it grown to be to us, with something like reluctance—a glad reluctance—as parting with a daughter at the marriage altar. And this is really a nuptial day. This gift is the bride; and she carries with herself to this people our benediction. There is a proverb of three Latin words, ‘*Qui Legit Regit*’, ‘He who reads is king’. Then let this be your palace royal. Thither, through many, many years, through summer bloom and winter gloom, may the feet of your children turn as to a garden of entertainments. For your young men and young women, I pray you make this the happy,

¹ See Genealogical Table of the Damon Family, p. 160.

wholesome greeting place, till books shall interest them and lure them to stay. For the old, when they come, lead them to the sunniest spot, the easiest chair, and show them the open page. But most of all, for those earnest ones among you, especially if they be poor, who hunger and thirst for books and the better things which books lead up to, keep always the door wide open, the feast spread and the lights burning—all this, till these rugged stones shall crumble and be as dust.”

After the applause which followed Mr. Gale's address had died away, Mr. Charles E. Parker, acting as chairman of the board of selectmen, responded for the town in the following Address of Acceptance :

“To Mr. and Mrs. Gale, whose benefaction calls us together to-day, I desire to say that I accept these deeds on behalf of the town. On behalf of the town I thank you. The conditions and requirements of the deed are reasonable and satisfactory, and I know I can promise a ready and hearty acceptance. The library, containing, as it does, the sum and substance of the life work of many students of the past, and the reading room, with its home-like comforts, supplied with papers and magazines filled with the best of the thoughts of the writers of to-day, are factors of education of immense advantage to the student at school and the community at large.

“This object lesson of beauty! Who can measure its influence for good? In behalf of the students who shall be inspired by the harmony and beauty to a higher ambition and greater effort, I thank you. Our fathers builded better than they knew when, in the early history of this country, beside the church they planted the school-house, and from time to time perfected the common school system. We all know it to be the corner stone and foundation of the best government on the face of the earth. With all due reverence, I would acknowledge a higher power, and invoke its aid to paralyze the hand that would take one stone from the foundation of our school system. It shall be maintained, and with it shall be kept green the memory of those who make education attractive. If he who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before is a public benefactor, how much more he, who, adding to the facilities of acquiring knowledge, makes men wiser and better.”

At the conclusion of his address of acceptance, Mr. Parker called upon the audience to thank Mr. and Mrs. Gale for their gift, and all unanimously arose. The Prayer of Dedication was then offered by Rev. David F. Estes. Mr. Learned then introduced the orator of the day, Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, as being "a resident of Cambridge and of Holden".¹ Col. Higginson spoke in part as follows :

"Fergusson, in his History of Architecture, says that 'wherever we see any work of man truly worthy of admiration, we may be quite sure that the credit of it is not due to an individual, but to thousands working together through a long series of years.' He is speaking of the great cathedrals of Europe, which are undoubtedly the greatest visible work of man, when we consider both size and beauty ; which were all built practically within a single century, the thirteenth, and nearly all, in France at least, within the sixty years from 1180 to 1240. When the traveller approaches one of these great buildings he has in one respect the same impression produced on many visitors by the building we dedicate to-day. The cathedral

¹Col. Higginson was for part of three years a resident of Holden, occupying during the summer "Pine Grove Farm," the residence of Samuel W. Armington. In presenting to the Gale Free Library a copy of his volume of Essays, "In a Fair Country. Illustrated by Irene E. Jerome", Col. Higginson wrote, "Some of the illustrations were drawn in Holden, while Miss Jerome was visiting us there." From a pine grove in Holden came also the suggestion for his poem—

THE SNOWING OF THE PINES.

Softer than silence, stiller than still air,
 Float down from high pine boughs the slender leaves.
 The forest floor its annual boon receives
 That comes like snowfall, tireless, tranquil, fair.
 Gently they glide, gently they clothe the bare
 Old rocks with grace. Their fall a mantle weaves
 Of paler yellow than autumnal sheaves,
 Or those strange blossoms the witch-hazels wear.
 Athwart long aisles the sunbeams pierce their way ;
 High up, the crows are gathering for the night :
 The delicate needles fill the air ; the jay
 Takes through the golden mist his radiant flight ;
 They fall and fall, till at November's close
 The snowflakes drop as lightly—snows on snows.

dwarfs everything around it, and seems, at first sight, almost disproportionate, both in size and dignity. In going towards Cologne, for instance, or York Minster, you are impressed with the fact that, instead of drawing near to a town, you are approaching a cathedral. The building looms in the distance, large, stately, solid, glittering in the light or dim with shade, very much as in crossing Kansas and approaching Colorado, you see Pike's Peak on the one hand, and the Spanish Peaks on the other, the far off prediction of wonders yet to be revealed. When you reach those mountains, you find towns already encamped around their feet, and so when you reach York or Cologne, you find the town encamped around the feet of the cathedral. Even so, fifty years hence, will the village of Holden be seen clustered around these solid walls, which enshrine its library and its high school. It will doubtless affect the other buildings to be hereafter erected in the town; they will be more solid, tasteful, appropriate, for having this building in their midst; but the Damon Memorial will be the center of the town, as it should be, for it will be the source and center of its intellectual life.

“The parallel holds in other ways. Nothing comes so near the great impulse which built, within less than a century, the vast European cathedrals, as the impulse which is dotting our land with public libraries. We mistake if we suppose that those mediæval glories of the world came from a religious enthusiasm alone. They represent a great peaceful uprising of the people against the feudal system, an impulse of which the French bishops skillfully availed themselves to strengthen themselves against the feudal lords on the one side and the religious brotherhoods on the other. Before the period of cathedral building, all the great ecclesiastical buildings were monastic; the people had no part in them; but in the cathedrals the laity bore most of the expense and shared, in at least an equal degree, their ownership and purposes. In the previous buildings the laity had no rights, and took no part in what was done there; but in the cathedrals, the people were at home. There the popular assemblies were gathered, the local governments organized, that were to make a stand against the feudal lords; in the cathedrals the courts and markets were held, and not merely religious shows took place, but even popular farces and wild buffooneries. When the commune, or local municipality, of Noyon, for example, was to be organized, the bishop called together in the cathedral the men of

property, the professional and business men and the skilled artisans, and presented to them a charter, which created for them a popular government (*corps de bourgeois*). Thus the cathedrals were not merely religious but public buildings; they had a democratic origin, and the very oldest of them, as that of Laon, have rather the air of municipal structures than of churches. They were not only larger buildings than had before been consecrated to religion, but they spoke a new language, that of the people; and thus the whole people joined to build them.

“During the two summers while I have watched this building rise, I have been constantly struck with the fact, that it represents the same great popular impulse in the nineteenth century that the cathedral represented in the thirteenth. The ancient cathedral and the modern town library alike stand for the spirit of their age. Now, as then, a single benefactor often gives the whole financial means for the great work; we meet to-day to express gratitude to such a donor; but he himself would be the first to admit that he represents the great impulse of enlightenment, which is providing every town in Massachusetts with free libraries. In a wholly illiterate community such an enterprise would be wasted, and the donor of this building was working unconsciously for it just as much when he taught one of your schools in his youth, as when, in his prosperous maturity, he feeds the demand he helped to create. And every one who, in this town, or elsewhere, has ever worked for public school or public library, has been one of the thousand who, as Fergusson said, have helped to prepare the way for every great work of man. As I have watched this building go up, it has seemed to me to rise,—as was said, by a mediæval writer, of the cathedrals—‘built of the money of the rich and the prayers of the poor.’ Men of almost every occupation in this town have been employed about this building, and have worked, as they did in the middle ages, with a zeal not measured only by the day’s wages. Those who did not work with their hands have watched the laying of every stone, and have contributed, without charge, sympathy enough to encourage any contractor, as well as good advice enough seriously to embarrass him. I am confident that no European cathedral ever had a larger share of discussion and counsel to the square inch than the Damon Memorial; and it may be said of it, as of the great mediæval cathedrals, that it has been ‘built of the money of the rich and the prayers of the poor.’

“ And it must always be kept in view that this is but one contribution to that vast movement which is covering our state with public libraries, as Europe was covered with cathedrals.

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“ One of the favorite heroes of that eloquent man, [Mr. George William Curtis,] I remember, is Sir Philip Sidney, and it is Sir Philip Sidney who says in his ‘ Defense of Poesy ’ that ‘ the ending end of all knowledge is virtuous action. ’ Action is higher even than thought. On this principle there have been two great days in the history of Holden within my memory. One was the day, (April 20th, 1861,) when the summons went out from the state house calling upon the Holden Rifles to go, at a few hours notice, to the defense of Washington; and they went. That was Holden’s greatest day; this is the next; and it is pleasant to think that among those who worked upon this building were more than one of those who then rallied at their country’s call. Yes, action is higher than thought; deeds than words. The poet Keats, the most ideal of all poets, says in one of his letters that ‘ fine thinking is, next to fine doing, the top thing of the universe. ’ It is the mission of a school-house and a library to bring about not merely fine thinking but fine doing.

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“ I should like to see around the walls of the Holden Free Library some such inscription as used to delight me in boyhood, on the handbills of an old bookstore I used to frequent in Boston: ‘ Here you may range the world with the magic of a book, and cheat expectation and solitude of their weary moments. ’ And there will surely remain in that hall, with or without a portrait, the memory of the benefactor—may I not say of the two wedded benefactors?—through whom its pleasures and its advantages have been provided for coming generations of those whom they have never seen.”

After an hour spent in social greetings, and in the examination of the edifice, a procession formed under the direction of Chief Marshal Edward W. Merrick, and marched to the large dining tent, which had been spread on the Damon grounds, nearly opposite the Memorial building. Dinner was served to

about six hundred. After the conclusion of the dinner, Mr. Learned introduced Hon. Henry W. Warren as Toastmaster. He presented as the first sentiment, "*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*," to which Hon. George B. Loring of Salem, Minister of the United States to Portugal, responded at length. "*The City of Worcester*" was spoken for by Hon. Samuel Winslow, Mayor of the city. Nathan Allen, M. D., of Lowell, then presented a sketch of the life-work and character of Samuel C. Damon, D. D.; Mr. Samuel S. Green, of the Worcester Public Library, spoke to the sentiment, "*The Library, Garnered Wisdom of Centuries*"; a poem entitled "New England Granite," was read by Mr. Solon P. Davis, of Hartford, and Albert P. Marble, Ph. D., Hon. P. Emory Aldrich, Gen. Augustus B. R. Sprague of Worcester, and Henry A. Stimson, D. D., of St. Louis, a former pastor of Mrs. Gale, also made brief addresses. The following Ode by Mrs. Georgia Allen Peck was sung by the entire assemblage.

"Gazing on this massive splendor,
 Stately, changeless, fair to view,
 Fain our grateful song would render,
 Gracious donors, homage due.
 Let glad voices
 Sound the note of praise anew.

Here, in youth's unsullied morning,
 Eager for life's golden ore,
 Dead to sloth, and folly scorning,
 Lo, at wisdom's mystic door,
 Youth and maiden
 Glad shall garner priceless lore.

Here the treasure of all ages,
 Poet's dream, and fancy's flight,
 Science, art and wealth of sages
 In grand symphony unite.
 God hath spoken—
 Echo all, let there be light!

Onward points the tireless finger ;
Progress knows nor halt nor stay,
Suns shall in their orbit linger,
Time's swift sands their course delay,
Ere her footsteps
Falter in their upward way.

Spirits thrilled and hearts o'erflowing,
Giver of all good, to thee
Each rich gift of thy bestowing
Consecrated here shall be ;
Now and ever,
Consecrated, Lord, to thee !"

At a legal town meeting, held September 26th, 1888, the acceptance of the Damon Memorial upon the conditions and requirements contained in the deed of gift, was formally voted. The following expression of thanks was also adopted :

"The Town of Holden in town meeting assembled formally accepts the "Damon Memorial" Library and High School Building, and the books presented by Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Gale of Minneapolis, and desires at the same time publicly to express and place on record its appreciation of the good-will, generosity and even munificence of these gifts. To the natural pride, which we have felt as our former fellow citizens in the worth and prosperity of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Gale, is now added gratitude for their remembrance and helpfulness.

"The building most amply supplies needs already felt, and that on a scale which indicates the large heartedness of its donors, while the strength and dignity of its architectural structure makes it at once an ornament to the town and a constant lesson to its citizens.

"The town pledges itself to the fulfillment of the wise and fit conditions imposed by its donors, to the careful preservation of the property, to the enlargement of the Library, and to whatever may make school and library better subserve the purposes of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Gale, and better honor their large and wise liberality."

GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF THE DAMON FAMILY.¹

Samuel Damon,² = Abigail Penniman.

1755-1813. 1754-1842.

Penniman, 1739-1867.	Abigail, 1783-1838.	Samuel, = Aloney Cheney. 1786-1857. 1788-1863,
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Susan A. 1810-1831.	Aloney A. ⁴ 1813-1882.	Samuel C. 1815-1883.	Isaac, = Mary A. Hartwell, 1817. 1816-1867.	Charles F. 1826-1860.	Augustus F. 1828-1861.	Susan A. ⁵ 1833.
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Helen, ⁶ 1831-1878.	Mary A. ⁷ 1844-1878.	Marion V. ⁸ 1850.	Harry C. 1853.	Annie C. 1856.
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¹ This Table is intentionally incomplete. ² Removed to Holden, 1779. ³ Married Ignatius Goulding. ⁴ Married Charles L. Knowlton. ⁵ Married Samuel C. Gale. ⁶ Married James M. Shute. ⁷ Married Emory Rogers. ⁸ Married Frank Shute.

CHAPTER X.

MILITARY AFFAIRS.

COLONIAL CAMPAIGNS. — REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS. — MILITIA OFFICERS. — THE BOYS IN BLUE. — THERON E. HALL POST G. A. R.



MILITARY affairs interested the early inhabitants of Holden, not so much from choice as from necessity. The early settler's gun was his constant companion, and the farmer, at an hour's notice, turned militia-man and soldier.

May 22d, 1744, the Town "voted that the Some of Thirty-three pounds old Tener money be Assesed upon poles and Estates and passed into a rate to provide powder and bulits and flints for a Town Stock and for the transport of Sd Stock."

In a great share of the campaigns that preceded the revolution, Holden was represented. The ancient muster rolls still testify to the public spirit which sent the early settlers from their scarcely built homes and still uncleared fields into the service of their county. In 1747, Jonathan Metcalf and Jotham Rice served at New Rutland. In 1755, Ephraim Bennett served in a Lancaster company, commanded by Asa Whetcomb, on the Crown Point expedition, and died in active service. Samuel Estabrook also served in 1755. In 1857, Sergeant William Fisher, Richard Flagg, Samuel Boyd, John Boyd, Benjamin Allen and Jacob Lindsey were out three weeks to serve with the forces at Lake George. Samuel Bigelow

served in 1757, and Henry Rice, Job Harris, Jedediah Estabrook and Ebenezer Fletcher in 1758. The same year the following muster roll was made out :

“ A muster Roll of a Detachment of men from Capt John Biglo Company of Holdin of Col^o John Chandler Jr. Regiment that marched on the Late alarm for the Relief of fort William Henry under the command of John Biglo as their Captain who marched from Holdin to Sheffield being 113 mile out.”

“All served 17 days closing Aug. 19 1758.”

John Bigelow, Captain,	Samuel Thompson,
Samuel Hubbard, Ensign,	Thomas Greenwood,
John Child, Sergeant,	Samuel Boyd,
Joseph Greenwood, Sergeant,	Elisha Mirick,
Isaac Smith, Sergeant,	Thomas Dryden,
Simon Davis, Sergeant,	William Barber,
William Flagg, Corporal,	Benjamin Allen,
Andrew Smith, Corporal,	Job Harris,
Paul Raymond, Corporal,	Ebenezer Goodnow,
Moses Wheeler, Corporal,	Jedidiah Estabrook,
Ebenezer Fletcher,	Isaac Thompson.
Gideon Fisher,	

In 1759 the following served nearly nine months each : First Lieutenant Ebenezer Fletcher, Sergeant Samuel Bigelow, Samuel Estabrook, Jedediah Estabrook, Job Harris, Samuel Hubbard, John Murphy, Henry Rice and Samuel Thompson. John Woodward and Ebenezer Goodnow also served the same year. In 1760, “Richard Miles, born in Ireland, 36 yrs” enlisted for the reduction of Canada. In 1761, there served in “Thomas Cowdine’s Co.” till December 2d : Noah Cotton, enlisted June 20th ; Thomas Cotton, June 30th ; Thomas Cragge, June 18th ; James Cragge, June 18th ; William McMaster, June 18th, and Robert Train, June 30th. Isaac Whitney served from June 29th to November 17th. In the same company the next year, 1762, Sergeant Job Harris, was mustered in March 17th ; Nathan Bigelow, March 22d ; James Cutler, March 24th, and Isaiah Sprout, March 22d ; the service of

all ending November 10th. In 1766, Ithamar Goodenough served in Captain Fay's Company.

When "the embattled farmers stood, and fired the shot heard round the world," its echoes roused two companies from Holden, both of which marched April 19th, 1775.

"Roll of Major Paul Raymond Company of Militia who marched from Holden in the County of Worcester to Cambridge on the 19th of April A D 1775. Said Company belongs to the first Regiment in said County."

Paul Raymond, Major,	David Winch,
Nat. Harrington, Lieutenant,	John Potter,
John Child Jr., 2d Lieutenant,	David Potter,
Ebenezer Estabrook, Sergeant,	John Symond,
Elisha Mirick, Sergeant,	David Smith,
Samuel Chaffin, Sergeant,	Amos Hubbard,
Jonathan Rice,	William Flagg,
Moses Wheeler,	Zillai Stickney,
Jason Gleason,	Valentine Harris,
Jesse Allen,	John Mack,
Joseph Fletcher,	John Willington,
Thomas Kimball,	Israel Davis, Jr.,
Aaron Broad,	Daniel Black,
Amasa Holt,	Samuel Estabrook, Jr.,
Asa Lovell,	David Perry,
Amos Lovell,	Josiah Stratton,
William Raymond,	Amos Heywood,
Amos Raymond,	Charles Heywood,
Timothy Morse,	David Fisk.

"Roll of the minute company in Holden Capt. James Davis, in Col. Doolittle's Reg. Marched April 19th 1775."

James Davis, Captain,	Noah Haven, Corporal,
Samuel Thompson, 1st Lieut.,	Seth Snow, Corporal,
Samuel Hubbard, 2d Lieutenant,	Artemas Dryden, Fifer,
Francis Willson, Sergeant,	Thomas Davis,
Elisha Hubbard, Sergeant,	Ephraim Smith,
Daniel Grout, Corporal,	Samuel Row,
Henry Taft, Corporal,	Jacob Black,

Nathaniel Sheppard,
 Simon Stickney,
 Joshua Gale,
 Thomas Hurd,
 John Oben,
 Thomas Dryden,
 John Winch,
 Aaron Wheeler,
 Isaiah Brown,
 Nathan Wheeler,
 Edmund Hall,
 Jesse Partridge,
 Paul Goodale,

Peter Hubbard,
 James Cheney,
 Bartholomew Stearns,
 Jonathan Howe,
 John McMullen,
 Jonathan Fisk,
 Isaiah Cheney, Jr.,
 John Dodd,
 Jabez Metcalf,
 Jonathan Wheeler,
 Elijah Rice, Jr.,
 Judah Wright.

Holden soldiers served constantly and everywhere during the whole Revolutionary war. The number serving in the Continental Army was sixty-five, and ninety-seven others served for a larger or shorter time as militia.

The list of soldiers in the Continental army was as follows :

Abbott, John,
 Allard, Andrew,
 Bailey, John,
 Bartlett, Jonathan,
 Blake, Jeremiah,
 Boston, Philip,
 Bougle, Thomas,
 Brown, David,
 Cheney, Ebenezer,
 Davis, Levi,
 Davis, Samuel,
 Davis, Solomon,
 Davis, Thomas, Corporal,
 Drury, William,
 Dryden, Artemas, Fifer,
 Eaton, Samuel,
 Ebet, William,
 Fisk, David,

Flagg, Jonathan,
 Flagg, William,
 Foster, Elisha,
 Fuller, Jeremiah,
 Gay, Amasa,
 Grant, Samuel,
 Greenwood, Asa,
 Griffin, John,
 Harrington,¹ Lemuel,
 Harrington, Micah,
 Harrington, Nathan, 1st Lt.
 Harrington, Samuel,
 Heard, Thomas,
 Heywood, David,
 Heywood, Lemuel, Captain,
 Heywood, Levi,
 Holt, Ephraim, Jr.
 Homes, William Thomas,

¹ The name is also written Herrington and Herring.

Howe, Abraham,
 Hubbard, Abel, Corporal,
 Hubbard, Samuel, 2d Lieut.
 Jolls, Thomas,
 Jones, Abel,
 Keyes, Ezra,
 Kimball, Thomas,
 Lovell, Nathan,
 Mahana, John,
 Nichols, David,
 Partridge, Peter,
 Perry, Daniel,
 Perry, John,
 Peter, Simon,
 Potter, David,

Potter, James,
 Raymond, William,
 Rice, Ezra,
 Row, Samuel,
 Smith, Asa,
 Stearns, Increase,
 Stearns, Increase, Jr.
 Stevens, Thomas,
 Stickney, Barzillai,
 Webb, George, Captain,
 Wheeler, Moses,
 Wheeler, Nathan,
 Wheeler, Thomas,
 Williams, John.

The list of Militia men called into active service during the war of the Revolution is as follows :

Allen, Jesse,
 Black, Daniel,
 Black, Jacob, Corporal,
 Black, John, Corporal,
 Broad, Aaron,
 Brown, Isaiah, 1st Lieutenant,
 Chaffin, Samuel, Sergeant,
 Chaffin, Tilla,
 Chenery, Isaac,
 Cheney, Isaiah, Jr.
 Cheney, James,
 Cheney, Solomon C.
 Child, John, Jr., 2d Lieutenant,
 Clemens, Jonathan,
 Crosby, Sparrow,
 Davis, Edmund,
 Davis, Israel, Jr.,
 Davis, James, Captain,
 Davis, James, Jr.
 Davis, Jonathan,

Dodd, John,
 Dryden, Thomas,
 Estabrook, Ebenezer, Serg't
 Estabrook, Samuel, Jr.
 Fisk, Jonathan, Sergeant,
 Fletcher, James,
 Gale, Joshua,
 Gleason, Jason,
 Goodale, Paul,
 Grout, Daniel, Sergeant,
 Hall, Edmund,
 Harris, Valentine,
 Haven, Noah, Sergeant,
 Heard, William, Fifer,
 Heywood,¹ Amos,
 Heywood, Charles,
 Heywood, John,
 Heywood, Samuel,
 Hinds, Daniel,
 Hinds, Nimrod,

¹ The name also appears as Howard.

Holbrook, David,	Raymond, Paul, Major,
Holt, Amasa,	Rice, Elijah, Jr.
Howe, Jonathan,	Rice, Jonathan,
Howe, Joseph,	Robinson, Jeremiah,
Howe, Jotham,	Sargent, Daniel,
Hubbard, Amos,	Shepherd, Nathaniel, Corp'l,
Hubbard, Attai, ¹	Smith, David,
Hubbard, Elisha, Sergeant,	Smith, Ephraim,
Hubbard, Levi,	Smith, Joab,
Hubbard, Peter,	Snow, Aventon,
Keyes, Isaac,	Snow, Seth, Corporal,
Keyes, Israel,	Stearns, Bartholomew,
Lovell, ² Asa,	Stickney, Simeon,
Lovell, Amos,	Symonds, John,
Mack, John,	Taft, Henry, Corporal,
McMullen, John,	Thompson, Phineas,
Marshall, Timothy,	Thompson, Samuel, Corp'l,
Mead, Benjamin, Jr.	Turner, Bezaleel,
Metcalf, Jabez,	Walker, Hezekiah,
Mirick, Elisha, Sergeant,	Webb, Constant,
Moore, Jonathan,	Wheeler, Aaron,
Morse, Timothy,	Wheeler, Jonathan,
Nichols, Jonathan,	Willington, John,
Obens, John, Sergeant,	Willson, Francis, Ensign,
Parmenter, Solomon,	Winch, David,
Partridge, Jesse, Corporal,	Winch, Francis,
Perry, David,	Winch, John,
Potter, John,	Wright, Judah.
Raymond, Amos,	

The records show that the Revolution brought heavy financial burdens. Amid the difficulties always incident to a new settlement, the distresses and anxieties inseparable from war, and the constant loss arising from a depreciating currency, the little town, not forty years old and as yet numbering scarce seven hundred inhabitants, found it no easy matter to do what must be done in the way of furnishing and supporting troops.

¹ Died in service. ² Also written Lowell.

The following records will show something of what was demanded and done in the struggle for independence.

March 24th, 1777. "Voted a Committee of five men to Levy an Equal and Equitable Assessment on the Inhabitants of Holden towards raising men for three years or During the War"

"Voted Twenty Pounds to Each Man that shall enlist into the Continental Army for Three Years or during the War"

January 26th, 1878. "Allowed Six pounds for the Two Months Men to Providence

"Eleven pounds five shillings for Six weeks to Bennington

"Six pounds for one month to Fort Edward

"Twenty Four pounds for the five first Men that went to Providence

"Samuel Heywood Jun^r to have 18 pounds & John Perry to have 14 pounds Micah Harrington to have 12 pounds

"Eighteen pounds for the Men that went to Still Water Three months

"one pound Ten Shillings for the Men that went to Hadly for one week"

June 21st, 1779, it was voted to raise five men for the Continental Army and to send twelve more to Rhode Island. October 20th, seven men were hired at \$300 apiece. June 19th, 1780, ten men were called for at once. September 4th, the town was asked to supply clothing for the troops, and more than once afterward there stands on the town books record of the settlement for single articles of clothing, a shirt or a waistcoat, furnished for the soldiers. October 18th, the town voted to provide four thousand eight hundred pounds of beef. December 25th, 1780, there was a levy of nine more men to be met.

"Voted to give the men that Shall Engage to serve 3 years in the Continental Army 20 3 year olds or the Value thereof at the Expiration of S^d Term—and if S^d Men Serve but one year they shall have 20 yearlings & if 2 years 20 2 year olds S^d Cattle to be of middling Size."

This proposition, however, seems to have found no takers, but "three men agreed to go for Three Hundred & fifty

Dollars each in hard money." July 9th, 1781, more beef was called for. At the same time six soldiers must be sent to West Point and two to Rhode Island.

The following statement stands upon the records of the town :

"The following is an account of what Cost the Town of Holden has been at During the present war in part.

			£	s	d
" 70 men the first alarm at Cambridge	April 19,	1775	40	0	0
" 27 men 8 month at Winter Hill	May	1775	238	0	0
" 12 men 6 weeks at Dotchester	December	1775	26	17	0
" 12 men 2 month at Dotchester	Febr	1776	30	0	0
" 18 men 5 month at New York	July	1776	180	5	0
" 3 men one year to the North wood		1776	108	0	0
" 4 men 5 month at Ticonderoga	July	1776	52	0	0
" 4 men 5 month at Boston	July	1776	30	0	0
" 15 men 2 month at New York	Sept	1776	63	0	0
" 15 men 3 month at the Jersies	Decemr	1776	150	0	0
" 8 men 8 month at Rhod island upon a request of the General Court	April 12	1777	64	0	0
" 11 men 6 weeks at Bennington	July	1777	70	18	0
" 15 men 3 month at Still water	Septer 2	1777	90	0	0
" 7 men 2 month at Providance	May	1777	28	0	0
" 20 men one month at Fort Edward	October	1777	38	0	0
" 1 man 6 month to guard Stores at Brook field	June	1777	8	0	0
" 2 men 6 month to guard Stores at Brook field	Decemr	1777	12	0	0
" 9 men 3 month at Rutland as guards	March	1778	27	0	0
" 3 men 6 month at Rutland	July	1778	18	0	0
" 4 men 3 month to Dotchester	Sept	1778	16	0	0
" 5 men 9 month to Reinforce the Continental army	July	1779	187	10	0
" 4 men 8 month to Peekskill	May 29	1778	100	0	0
" 6 men 9 month to Rhod island	March	1778	50	0	0
" 8 men 6 weeks at New Port to Rein- force Gen. Sul		1778	24	0	0
" 3 men 6 weeks at Tiver Town	May	1879	4	15	0
" 2 men 3 month at Rutland to guard	July	1779	4	10	0
" 2 men 3 month at Rutland	Jan ^y 3	1779	3	0	0

			£	s	d
" 5 men 9 month at West Point	July 8	1779	187	10	0
" 5 men 2 month at Rhod island	Sept 20	1779	10	10	0
" 8 men 3 month to Claverick	October 9	1779	58	16	0
" 19 men upon an alarm to Hadly	August	1777	25	0	0
" 2 men 8 month at Rutland	April	1780	16	0	0"

To the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, Holden sent few soldiers. The records of the United States Government show that Reuben Coombs, John Holman and Henry Lawrence served from August 30th to October 31st, 1815, in Captain Enos Goss' company of Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Page's Detached Massachusetts Militia at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor. Charles Paul, at one time a resident of Holden, is said to have served in the Mexican War and in Indian warfare before his enlistment in the War of the Rebellion.

In a list of militiamen, without date,¹ the names of the following officers appear :

John Bigelow, Captain, Samuel Heywood, Ensign.
Cyprian Stevens, Lieutenant,

In 1763, we have this list :

Samuel Heywood, Captain, John Child, 2d Lieutenant,
Samuel Hubbard, 1st Lieutenant, Amos Heywood, Ensign.

In 1771 this was the list :

Amos Heywood, Captain, Nathan Harrington, 2d Lieutenant,
Paul Raymond, 1st Lieutenant, John Child, Jr., Ensign.

The following persons residing in Holden received commissions in the militia at the dates named :

Abbott, Chenery — Paymaster, July 7th, 1818 ; Captain, August 12th, 1826 ; Major, May 7th, 1828.

Abbott, Jarvis — Captain, February 15th, 1817 ; Major, April 21st, 1819 ; Colonel, May 27th, 1822.

Abbott, Lemuel — Ensign, May 30th, 1796 ; Lieutenant, September 17th, 1798 ; Captain, May 6th, 1800.

¹ " Must have been made at an early period."—Damon History.

- Babcock, Avery G. — Surgeon's Mate, September 2d, 1831.
- Bartlett, Phineas T. — Adjutant, July 1st, 1828; Paymaster, May 6th, 1823.
- Boynton, John — Paymaster, September 6th, 1836.
- Broad, Asa — Ensign, March 15th, 1808; Captain, March 12th, 1810.
- Chaffin, Hollis — Ensign, June 28th, 1828; Lieutenant, May 13th, 1829; Captain, September 15th, 1832.
- Chaffin, Samuel — Ensign, May 7th, 1816; Captain, March 7th, 1818.
- Chapin,¹ John — Lieutenant, March 29th, 1802; Captain, March 15th, 1808.
- Cheney, Simon — Ensign, March 31st, 1812; Lieutenant, July 11th, 1812; Captain, March 25th, 1815.
- Clark, William — Ensign, September 15th, 1836.
- Crosby, Sparrow — Ensign, August 11th, 1827; Captain, September 15th, 1832.
- Damon, Isaac P. — Lieutenant, September 7th, 1838; Captain, April 25th, 1839; Major, August 28th, 1839.
- Damon, Samuel, Jr. — Lieutenant, August 7th, 1810; Captain, May 4th, 1813; Major, September 1st, 1814; Lieutenant-Colonel, June 20th, 1816; Colonel, May 25th, 1818.
- Daniels, Joseph, Jr. — Captain, March 27th, 1815.
- Davis, Benjamin — Adjutant, September 3d, 1816.
- Davis, Daniel — Cornet, May 7th, 1811; Lieutenant, May 4th, 1813; Captain, September 26th, 1814.
- Davis, Dennis — Ensign, August 25th, 1824; Lieutenant, May 14th, 1825; Captain, June 9th, 1827.
- Davis, Ethan, Jr. — Quartermaster, September 2d, 1830.
- Davis, Gardner — Quartermaster, August 4th, 1825.
- Davis, John — Captain, October 28th, 1789; Major, September 3d, 1798; Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant, September 28th, 1801.
- Davis, Jones — Cornet, May 3d, 1808.
- Davis, Lemuel — Quartermaster, October 21st, 1793.

¹Also written Chapping.

- Davis, Merrill — Lieutenant, February 15th, 1817; Captain, June 5th, 1819; Major, October 25th, 1820; Colonel, May 27th, 1822.
- Davis, Paul, Jr. — Lieutenant, March 12th, 1810; Captain, March 31st, 1812; Major, May 14th, 1812.
- Davis, Thomas J. — Ensign, December 23d, 1820; Lieutenant, August 21st, 1821; Captain, May 14th, 1825.
- Drury, Abel — Lieutenant, September 5th, 1831.
- Drury, William, Jr. — Ensign, June 5th, 1819; Lieutenant, December 23d, 1820.
- Dryden, Artemas, Jr. — Lieutenant, April 14th, 1821; Captain, June 23d, 1823; Major, June 27th, 1826; Lieutenant-Colonel, April 14th, 1827; Colonel, May 7th, 1828.
- Estabrook, Austin — Ensign, July 1st, 1835; Lieutenant, August 6th, 1836; Captain, September 7th, 1838.
- Estabrook, Eben R. — Aide-de-camp to Brigadier-General, August 15th, 1839.
- Estabrook, Ebenezer — Quartermaster, September 7th, 1789.
- Estabrook, George — Surgeon's Mate, August 29th, 1820.
- Estabrook, James — Ensign, September 17th, 1790; Lieutenant, April 28th, 1800; Captain, March 29th, 1802; Major, November 27th, 1807.
- Estabrook, John — Ensign, June 23d, 1820; Lieutenant, January 1st, 1828; Captain, June 28th, 1828.
- Estabrook, Jonathan — Ensign, March 29th, 1802; Lieutenant, March 15th, 1808.
- Estabrook, Jones — Cornet, February 20th, 1819; Adjutant, August 13th, 1822.
- Estabrook, Joseph — Ensign, May 6th, 1800.
- Estabrook, Stillman — Ensign, September 5th, 1831; Captain, April 13th, 1833; Colonel, August 15th, 1834.
- Estabrook, Washington — Ensign, March 7th, 1818; Lieutenant, May 5th, 1818.
- Fairbanks, Winslow — Ensign, July 28th, 1827; Lieutenant, May 15th, 1830.
- Fales, Leonard — Ensign, April 13th, 1833.

- Farrar, Peter — Ensign, July 11th, 1812; Lieutenant, March 5th, 1815; Captain, May 7th, 1816.
- Flagg, George — Paymaster, February 20th, 1818.
- Flagg, Lyman — Ensign, June 1st, 1828; Lieutenant, June 28th, 1828; Captain, May 13th, 1829.
- Flagg, Silas — Ensign, March 12th, 1810; Lieutenant, March 31st, 1812; Captain, June 11th, 1812; Major, February 8th, 1815.
- Goulding, Jason — Cornet, August 26th, 1823; Lieutenant, August 15th, 1825.
- Heywood, Simon — Cornet, April 10th, 1815.
- Holt, Joab S. — Ensign, April 13th, 1833; Lieutenant, September 21st, 1833; Captain, September 25th, 1834; Major, August 22d, 1836; Lieutenant-Colonel, September 14th, 1836; Colonel, July 6th, 1837.
- Howe, Amasa — Ensign, September 4th, 1832; Lieutenant, April 2d, 1833.
- Hubbard, Daniel — Captain, July 28th, 1837.
- Hubbard, Peter — Ensign, May 2d, 1790.
- Hubbard, Samuel — Paymaster, July 1st, 1812.
- Hubbard, Willard M. — Ensign, March 25th, 1815; Lieutenant, May 7th, 1816.
- Hubbard, William — Lieutenant, June 12th, 1810.
- Hyde, Beriah W. — Ensign, April 25th, 1839.
- Kendall, Caleb, Jr. — Ensign, September 21st, 1833; Lieutenant, September 25th, 1834; Captain, August 6th, 1836.
- Kendall, James — Ensign, August 6th, 1836.
- Knowlton, George — Ensign, September 7th, 1838; Lieutenant, April 25th, 1839.
- Mann, Jason — Ensign, May 14th, 1825.
- May, Henry — Ensign, January 1st, 1834.
- Maynard, John P. — Ensign, February 18th, 1817; Lieutenant, June 5th, 1819; Captain, December 23d, 1820; Paymaster, December 23d, 1820.
- Moore, Newell — Lieutenant, September 15th, 1832.
- Ormsby, Marcus — Lieutenant, September 15th, 1836.
- Paine, William P. — Chaplain, September 6th, 1836.

Parker, Timothy — Captain, June 8th, 1836.

Raymond, James — Ensign, April 14th, 1821.

Read, John — Lieutenant, April 4th, 1806.

Robbins, Augustus — Surgeon's Mate, August 19th, 1837.

Skinner, Aaron G. — Surgeon, September 6th, 1836.

Smith, David — Lieutenant, May 27th, 1790; Captain, September 17th, 1790.

Smith, John M. — Surgeon's Mate, May 22d, 1819.

Stratton, Samuel — Lieutenant, June 9th, 1827; Lieutenant-Colonel, August 15th, 1831.

Waters, George — Chaplain, August 19th, 1837.

Wheeler, Asa — Quartermaster, April 18th, 1806.

The most of the militia service of Holden men was performed in connection with a "Grenadier" company. Some years before the Centennial of the town,¹ a company of "Light Infantry" was also organized, and the two flourished simultaneously for some years. Both, however, ceased to exist not long after the Centennial. No record of the issue of any commission has been found later than June, 1842.

About fifteen years later, a "Rifle" company was organized. The commissions of its first officers bear date, December 13th, 1856. By the promptness of their response to our country's call and the faithfulness of their service, the "Rifles" have become the peculiar glory of Holden. The term of enlistment of its members expired during the civil war, and it disbanded.

The list of commissions in the Militia of Massachusetts issued to members of the "Rifle" company is as follows:

Bascom, George — Fourth Lieutenant, May 18th, 1861; Captain, September 1st, 1862.

Damon, Augustus F. — Fourth Lieutenant, June 23d, 1860; First Lieutenant, December 13th, 1856; Captain, August 28th, 1858.

Flagg, Silas — Third Lieutenant, June 23d, 1860.

¹ Damon History, p. 138.

- Gleason, Charles W.—Third Lieutenant, December 13th, 1856; Second Lieutenant, June 20th, 1857; First Lieutenant, August 28th, 1858.
- Gleason, Joseph H.—Second Lieutenant, June 9th, 1860; First Lieutenant, April 19th, 1861; Captain, May 18th, 1861.
- Hall, Theron E.—Captain, December 13th, 1856; Quartermaster, Staff of Third Division, July 13th, 1859.
- Knowlton, Charles—Fourth Lieutenant, December 13th, 1856; Third Lieutenant, June 20th, 1857; Second Lieutenant, August 28th, 1858; Captain, June 9th, 1860.
- Ladd, Alfred—Second Lieutenant, December 13th, 1856; First Lieutenant, May 2d, 1857.
- Newell, Phineas R.—Second Lieutenant, April 19th, 1861; First Lieutenant, May 18th, 1861.
- Parmenter, David F.—Fourth Lieutenant, June 20th, 1857; Quartermaster, August 27th, 1859.

The following is the most accurate list, which, after search of Post, State and National records, it has been found practicable to make of the soldiers who served in the War of the Rebellion, going from Holden. or serving on the quota of Holden.

- Armington, Samuel W. — Company D, Fifteenth Regiment, Enlisted January 3d, 1862.
- Ball, Diah—Company B, Third Battalion; wagoner, Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861, re-enlisted September 20th, 1861.
- Ball, Warren J.—Company B, Third Battalion; Company G, First Cavalry; Lieutenant, Company D, Second Cavalry. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 25th, 1861; re-enlisted December 19th, 1862.
- Barden, Charles—Company K, Thirty-fourth Regiment; Company G, Twenty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted December 2d, 1863; transferred June 14th, 1865.

- Bascom, Artemas D.—Corporal, Company B, Third Battalion.
Enlisted April 19th, 1861.
- Bascom, George—Lieutenant, Company B, Third Battalion ;
Captain, Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted
April 19th, 1861 ; re-enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Bassett, Dexter T.—Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment.
Enlisted February 15th, 1865.
- Bassett, Uriah—Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment. En-
listed January 4th, 1864. Killed on Welden R. R.
August 19th, 1864.
- Bates, John W.—Company C, Twenty-first Regiment. En-
listed August 23d, 1861.
- Belden, Charles R.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. En-
listed September 30th, 1862.
- Bigelow, George T.—Company E, Twenty-first Regiment.
Enlisted August 23d, 1861. Killed at Antietam, Md.,
September 17th, 1862.
- Black, Henry E.—Company B, Fifty-seventh Regiment.
Enlisted January 4th, 1864. Died at Alexandria, Va.,
February 22d, 1865.
- Brock, Albert L.—Company E, Twenty-first Regiment. En-
listed July 19th, 1861.
- Brown, George W.—Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment.
Enlisted September 5th, 1864. Died at Charlotte, N. C.,
May 27th, 1865.
- Burnett, George M.—Company B, Third Battalion ; Sergeant,
Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th,
1861 ; re-enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Burnham, Charles L.—Company H, Twenty-fifth Regiment.
Enlisted July 28th, 1862.
- Callum, William J.—Company A, Fifty-first Regiment.
Enlisted September 6th, 1862.
- Canniffe, Lyman R.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment.
Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Chaffin, Alfred—Musician, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted
August 22d, 1862.

- Chaffin, Frederic W.—Company A, Fifteenth Regiment. Enlisted July 12th, 1861.
- Chaffin, Winslow—Company G, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted August 15th, 1861.
- Chamberlain, Levi—Company A, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 7th, 1862. Killed at Spottsylvania, Va., May 12th, 1864.
- Chenery, Cyrus, Jr.—Corporal, Company B, Third Battalion ; Corporal, Company B, Fifty-first Regiment ; Corporal, Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861 ; re-enlisted September 30th, 1862 ; re-enlisted July 15th, 1864.
- Chenery, Henry C.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment ; Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862 ; re-enlisted July 15th, 1864.
- Cheney, George L.—Company G, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted August 15th, 1861.
- Clapp, W. Warren—Company I, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted November 6th, 1861.
- Clark, Edward—Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 20th, 1861. Died at Washington, N. C., September 18th, 1863.
- Clark, Edward B.—Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 21st, 1861.
- Clark, George S.—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted July 29th, 1862.
- Clark, John—Company —, — New York Cavalry. Enlisted February 12th, 1862.
- Clark, John H.—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment ; Company A, Twenty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted December 5th, 1863 ; transferred June 14th, 1865.
- Clark, Samuel A.—Company B, Third Battalion ; Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861 ; re-enlisted September 16th, 1861.
- Combs, Ariel—Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted January 7th, 1865.

- Corey, George A.—Company B, Third Battalion: Company G, Twenty-first Regiment; Corporal, Company H, Thirtieth Regiment; Corporal, Company F, Fifty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted August 23d, 1861; transferred June 2d, 1864; transferred June 8th, 1865.
- Creed, Albert F.—Company H, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted August 23d, 1861.
- Cutting, George E.—Company F, Fourth Heavy Artillery. Died December 26th, 1864.
- Cutting, Jacob P.—Company G, Eighteenth Regiment. Enlisted August 24th, 1861.
- Cutting, Joseph B.—Company B, Eighteenth Regiment; Company C, Thirty-second Regiment. Enlisted February 9th, 1864; transferred October 26th, 1864.
- Damon, Isaac — Sergeant, Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Davenport, Allen — Company E, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted August 15th, 1861.
- Davenport, Elisha G.—Company G, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted March 10th, 1864. Killed in the Wilderness, Va., May 6th, 1864.
- Davis, Edward J.—Corporal, Company G, Forty-ninth Regiment. Enlisted September 20th, 1862.
- Davis, Francis E.—Company B, Third Battalion. Enlisted April 19th, 1861.
- Davis, George D.—Sergeant, Company G, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 20th, 1862.
- Defose, Charles L.—Company D, Fifteenth Regiment; Orderly-Sergeant, Company C, Fifty-seventh Regiment; Lieutenant, Company B, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted July 12th, 1861; re-enlisted February 6th, 1864; re-enlisted June 12th, 1865.
- Denny, Austin — Company H, Twenty-eighth Regiment. Enlisted December 30th, 1861.

- Fales, Henry M.—Company B, Third Battalion; Company B, Fifty-first Regiment; Corporal, Company G, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 30th, 1862; re-enlisted March 10th, 1864. Killed in the Wilderness, Va., May 6th, 1864.
- Farrar, Charles E.—Corporal, Company A, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 2d, 1862.
- Fearing, John—Company B, Third Battalion; Company G, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted August 23d, 1861. Died of wounds at Cold Harbor, Va., August 3d, 1864.
- Ford, Charles H.—Company K, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted August 8th, 1864.
- Fuller, Fred L.—Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted September 24th, 1861.
- Gammell, Andrew—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment; Company A, Twenty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted December 16th, 1863; transferred June 14th, 1865.
- Gibbs, Charles—Company C, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 14th, 1861. Died at Annapolis, Md., September 13th, 1864.
- Gill, Franklin—Company F, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted July 24th, 1862.
- Gleason, Daniel H. L.—Captain, Brevet Major, Company G, First Cavalry. Enlisted September 25th, 1861.
- Gleason, Dexter F.—Company H, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 23d, 1861.
- Gleason, Joseph H.—Captain, Company B, Third Battalion. Enlisted April 19th, 1861.
- Goodnow, James W.—Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted February 22d, 1864. Died in prison, September 25th, 1864.
- Haley, James W.—Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 27th, 1861. Died at Holden, February 22d, 1864.
- Hall, Mortimer T.—Company E, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted August 15th, 1861.

- Hall, Theron E.—Lieutenant and Adjutant, Twenty-first Regiment, Colonel and Chief Quartermaster, Ninth Corps. Enlisted September 18th, 1861.
- Handley, John—Company H, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted January 11th, 1864. Killed in the Wilderness, May 6th, 1864.
- Handy, Edward—Company I, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted August 10th, 1864.
- Handy, George W.—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted July 31st, 1862.
- Handy, William H.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Henry, Albert—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment; Company A, Twenty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted September 19th, 1863; transferred June 14th, 1865.
- Henry, Edward C.—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted July 29th, 1862.
- Hill, Charles R.—Company B, Third Battalion; Corporal, Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted January 19th, 1864.
- Holden, Gustavus S.—Company C, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted February 12th, 1864.
- Holt, Henry M.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862. Died at Holden, November 24th, 1862.
- Hosmer, Dennis—Company E, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted July 19th, 1861.
- Houghton, John R.—Company G, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted July 31st, 1862. Died at Fort Lyon, Va., December 11th, 1862.
- Howe, Amasa A.—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted July 29th, 1862. Died in prison at Florence, S. C., November 25th, 1864.
- Howe, Hiram—Company B, Third Battalion; Company G, Thirty first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted December 20th, 1861.

- Hubbard, Calvin—Company G, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 17th, 1862. Died in Libby Prison, Richmond, Va, February 26th, 1863.
- Hubbard, John F.—Company B, Third Battalion; Sergeant, Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Hubbard, Lyman A.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Hubbard, Martin—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Hubbard, Myron E.—Company E, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted August 15th, 1861.
- Hubbard, Stephen N.—Wagoner, Company G, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 12th, 1862.
- Humphrey, Henry H.—Company C, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 27th, 1862.
- Johnson, George T.—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted January 5th, 1862. Died in hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., January 4th, 1865.
- Kelton, Ira J.—Sergeant, Company B, Third Battalion; Captain, Company C, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted October 3d, 1861. Fell mortally wounded at Chantilly, Va., September 1st, 1862; died at Georgetown, D. C., September 19th, 1862.
- Kennan, Myron J.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Kennan, Silas F.—Company H, Thirty-first Regiment. Enlisted November 10th, 1861.
- Keyes, Lyman E.—Company C, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 13th, 1861. Killed June 3d, 1864.
- Knowlton, Charles H.—Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 14th, 1861.
- Knowlton, Franklin A.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Knox, Henry F.—Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 16th, 1861.

- Knox, Walter D.—Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 16th, 1861.
- Ladd, Henry C.—Company B, Third Battalion; Company —, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted ———.
- Levally, Godfrey — Company E, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted October 12th, 1861.
- Lincoln, Albert A.—Corporal, Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Logan, John M.—Company C, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 7th, 1862.
- Lovell, Lewis — Company K, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted August 9th, 1864.
- Lowell, Henry H.—Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted July 15th, 1864. Died at Alexandria, Va., October 5th, 1864.
- Lowell, William J.—Company H, Twenty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted August 15th, 1862.
- Lumazette, Francis — Company B, Third Battalion; Company G, Twenty-first Regiment; Company K, Thirty-sixth Regiment; Company B, Fifty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted August 15th, 1861; re-enlisted January 1st, 1864. Died of wounds August 13th, 1864.
- McDonald, John A.—Captain, Company H, Twenty-eighth Regiment. Enlisted October 8th, 1861, transferred July 26th, 1863, to Veteran Reserve Corps.
- McGrath, James, Jr.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment; Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862; re-enlisted July 15th, 1864.
- Martin, Joseph — Company G, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted October 6th, 1861.
- May, John E.—Company B, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted January 4th, 1864.
- Mayo, John S.—Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 21st, 1861.

- Merrifield, Frank H.—Company D, Fifteenth Regiment; Company G, Twentieth Regiment. Enlisted March 5th, 1862, transferred July 27th, 1864.
- Moore, Charles S.—Company B, Third Battalion; Company H, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted October 18th, 1861.
- Moore, Franklin—Company A, First Provisional Guards. Enlisted July 13th, 1863.
- Moore, Harlan P.—Sergeant, Company K, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted July 28th, 1862. Died at Camp Nelson, Ky., March 1st, 1864.
- Moses, Samuel A.—Company B, Third Battalion. Enlisted April 19th, 1861.
- Murphy, Michael—Nineteenth Regiment, unassigned. Enlisted July 31st, 1863.
- Newell, George W.—Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 7th, 1862. Died of wounds at Fort Schuyler, New York Harbor, July 24th, 1864.
- Newell, Hiram P.—Sergeant, Company B, Third Battalion. Enlisted April 19th, 1861.
- Newell, Phineas R.—Lieutenant, Company B, Third Battalion; Lieutenant, Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted April 11th, 1861; re-enlisted July 15th, 1864.
- Nichols, William H.—Musician, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted August 23d, 1861.
- O'Brien, William—Bugler, Company K, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted August 8th, 1864.
- Paddock, Charles F.—Company B, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted January 4th, 1864.
- Paine, Seth H.—Company G, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted August 13th, 1861.
- Panton, Maxie—Company B, Third Battalion; Company F, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted August 15th, 1861.
- Parker, Edward—Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 27th, 1862; re-enlisted February, 1864.

- Parker, Edwin S.—Company A, Ninth Regiment; Company A, Thirty-second Regiment. Enlisted July 13th, 1863; transferred June 9th, 1864.
- Parker, William — Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Parmenter, Rodney A.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Paul, Charles — Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted January 4th, 1864; transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps.
- Perry, Cyrus M.—Chaplain, Twenty-fourth New York Cavalry. Enlisted April 3d, 1865.
- Perry, William C.—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted July 29th, 1862. Died at Fort Lyon, Alexandria, Va., October 21st, 1862.
- Pierce, Oliver — Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Piper, Alfred — Company B, Third Battalion; Company E, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 10th, 1861.
- Pratt, Edwin F.—Company B, Third Battalion; Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 17th, 1861.
- Preston, Samuel — Company B, Third Battalion; Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 17th, 1861.
- Putnam, Willard R.—Company A, First Cavalry. Enlisted January 5th, 1864.
- Riley, Michael — Company G, Twenty fifth Regiment. Enlisted March 5th, 1864. Killed at Drury's Bluff, May 16th, 1864.
- Rivers, Edward — Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment; Company A, Twenty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted December 15th, 1863; transferred June 14th, 1865.
- Rivers, Peter — Company I, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted August 9th, 1864.

- Robinson, Albert B.—Surgeon, Tenth Regiment; Surgeon, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted August 9th, 1862; re-enlisted July 15th, 1864.
- Robinson, Thomas—Company G, Twenty-first Regiment; Company K, Thirty-sixth Regiment; Company E, Fifty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 23d, 1861; re-enlisted, January 1st, 1864.
- Rogers, Emory—Corporal, Company B, Third Battalion; Lieutenant, Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Rogers, Winslow B.—Musician, Company G, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 12th, 1862. Died at Vicksburg, Miss., July 25th, 1863.
- Santon, Oliver—Company E, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted August 15th, 1861.
- Savage, George E.—Musician, Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Savage, John B.—Company B, Third Battalion; Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 12th, 1861. Died in prison at Belle Isle, Va., March 1st, 1864.
- Sargent, Ephraim H.—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment; Company A, Twenty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted December 14th, 1863; transferred June 14th, 1865.
- Sawyer, Alphonso B.—Company B, Third Battalion. Enlisted April 19th, 1861.
- Seaver, George H.—Company C, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted January 11th, 1865.
- Seaver, Roswell R.—Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment; Company C, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted January 4th, 1864; re-enlisted January 11th, 1865.
- Short, John—Company E, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted October 12th, 1861.
- Smith, Artemas C.—Company —, First Battalion; Sergeant, Company G, Second Cavalry. Enlisted ———; re-enlisted ———.

- Smith, David — Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Smith, George A. — Company B, Third Battalion. Enlisted April 19th, 1861.
- Smith, Herbert J. — Company B, Third Battalion. Enlisted April 19th, 1861.
- Smith, Thoret — Company G, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 4th, 1862.
- Stearns, Ezra J. — Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted December 7th, 1863.
- Steele, Charles H. — Company F, Second Regiment. Enlisted May 25th, 1861.
- Steele, George W. — Company K, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted August 8th, 1864.
- Thurston, George T. — Company B, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted January 14th, 1864. Died of wounds at Washington, D. C., June 3d, 1864.
- Thurston, Lyman F. — Company G, Twenty-first Regiment; Company K, Thirty-sixth Regiment; Company B, Fifty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 23d, 1861; re-enlisted January 1st, 1864.
- Truesdell, Horace L. — Company B, Fifty-first Regiment; Company I, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted September 30th, 1862; re-enlisted August 9th, 1864. Died of wounds, April 15th, 1865.
- Truesdell Lucius ————— New York Cavalry. Enlisted February 12th, 1862.
- Tucker, Alfred S. — Company A, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 6th, 1862. Died at Salisbury, N. C., February 6th, 1865.
- Turner, George H. — Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted July 15th, 1864.
- Williams, Count DeLeon — Company F, Twenty-second Regiment. Enlisted August 10th, 1861.
- Winn, Cyrus D. — Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.

- Winn, James W.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment; Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862; re-enlisted July 14th, 1864.
- Wright, Frank—Sergeant, Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted January 19th, 1864.

A list is given in the Report of the Selectmen for 1864,¹ of those who had enlisted between October, 1863, and February, 1864. Most of the names appear in the above list, but of the following it has not been possible, after diligent inquiry, to learn anything beyond the fact stated above:

Charles Badew,	Franklin H. Tolman,
Latham Burt,	John W. Winch.
Robert Clark,	

The following is a list of such residents of Holden, before or since the war, as are known to have served in putting down the Rebellion:

- Aldrich, Frank A.—Company H, First Rhode Island Light Artillery.
- Allen, Dwight D.—Sergeant, Company H, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted June 11th, 1864. Killed July 30th, 1864, at Petersburg, Va.
- Allen, James H.—Company E, First Vermont. Enlisted May 2d, 1861.
- Armington, Alonzo C.—Company C, Third Vermont. Killed at the battle of Savage Station, June 29th, 1862.
- Armington, Henry C.—Company K, Ninth Maine. Killed before Petersburg, July 30th, 1864.
- Ball, Oscar C.—Sergeant, Company F, First Missouri Engineers. Enlisted September 23d, 1861.
- Bates, Ira D.—Principal Musician, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 12th, 1861.

¹ "To make known to all the patriotism of our citizens in answering the demands of our government, we give the names of those who have volunteered and entered the service of our country since October last." Selectmen of Holden in their report for the year ending February 22d, 1864.

- Bennett, Austin C.—Company F, Fourth Regiment Heavy Artillery. Enlisted August 9th, 1864.
- Berry, Joseph—Company B, First Regiment Heavy Artillery, Enlisted December 15th, 1863.
- Betterley, Edward S.—Company A, Fifteenth Regiment; Twentieth Regiment. Enlisted August 2d, 1861; transferred July 27th, 1864.
- Bixby, Jacob W.—Company C, Twenty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 12th, 1862.
- Bracewell, Joseph—Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted August 28th, 1862.
- Chaffee, G. Edwin—Company I, Fifty-third Regiment; Company E, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted September 6th, 1862; re enlisted July 22d, 1864.
- Chaffin, Harry W.—Company K, Ninth Regiment, United States Volunteers.
- Chaffin, Willard—First Battery, Light Artillery; Ninth Battery, Light Artillery. Enlisted August 28th, 1861; re-enlisted December 24th, 1865; transferred March 12th, 1865.
- Clark, Simeon C.—Acting Third Assistant Engineer, United States Navy, on S. S. Vixen. Enlisted November 20th, 1862.
- Clark, Thaddcus S.—Tenth unattached Company, Heavy Artillery; transferred to United States Navy, serving on S. S. Princeton and Monitor Tunxis. Enlisted August 5th, 1863.
- Cole, Stephen T.—Company B, Twelfth Regiment; Company E, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted May 15th, 1861; re-enlisted January 4th, 1864.
- Comstock, Albert M.—Musician, Company B, Seventy-second New York. Enlisted May 28th, 1861.
- Cooley, Marius S.—Company G, Second Regiment. Enlisted August 14th, 1862; transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps.
- Creed, Isaac—Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 7th, 1862.

- Davis, Alden G.—Company B, Twenty-third New York. Enlisted June 1st, 1863.
- Dean, Paul I.—Company D, Fourth Regiment Heavy Artillery. Enlisted August 17th, 1864.
- Dockham, Daniel—Company G, Twelfth New Hampshire. Enlisted March 29th, 1864.
- Dunker, George.
- Durdeen, Smith—Company F, Fifth Regiment. Enlisted May 28th, 1864.
- Gardner, Andrew J.—Company C, Fourth Rhode Island. Enlisted September 9th, 1861.
- Geer, Roman J.—Corporal, Company K, Seventh Connecticut. Enlisted September 12th, 1861.
- Graham, George S.—Company D, Fifty-third Regiment. Enlisted September 2d, 1862.
- Harrington, Dennis—Company E, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted June 3d, 1862.
- Hill, William—Corporal, Company A, Second Vermont. Enlisted July — 1863.
- Howe, Church—Sergeant, Company G, Sixth Regiment; Captain, Company K, Fifteenth Regiment; brevetted Major; Senior Aide-de-Camp to Major-General Sedgwick. Enlisted April 16th, 1861.
- Jordan, William A.—Company C, Eighty-eighth Illinois. Enlisted August 10th, 1862.
- Kendall, Herbert I.
- Kilburn, William W.—Lieutenant. Killed at the battle of Williamsburg.
- Ladd, George H.—Corporal, Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted July 11th, 1864.
- Lamb, Edward P.—Company B, Third Battalion; Corporal, Company F, Eighteenth Wisconsin. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted February 5th, 1862.
- Lane, Benjamin H.—Company H, One Hundred and Forty-ninth Pennsylvania. Enlisted August 26th, 1862.

- Leslie, Charles H.—Company C, Thirty-fifth Regiment; Corporal, Company C, Twenty-ninth Regiment. Enlisted August 11th, 1864; transferred June 9th, 1865.
- Loring, Silas H.—Company A, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 3d, 1862.
- McCabe, John M.—Company B, Second Regiment. Enlisted May 11th, 1861.
- McCarty, Edward.
- Mellsop, James—Company D, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Merriam, Horace—Company C, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted October 10th, 1861.
- Moore, Marcus—Company F, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted October 14th, 1862.
- Moore, Thomas—Company I, Tenth Rhode Island. Enlisted May 26th, 1862.
- Moran, Thomas—Company D, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted 1865.
- Morse, Horace B.—Corporal, Company I, Thirty-ninth Regiment. Enlisted August 4th, 1862.
- Murphy, James—Company K, Third United States Infantry. Enlisted July 2d, 1861.
- Nado, Michael—New York Cavalry. Enlisted February 12th, 1862.
- Newton, Nahum.
- Paddock, John D.¹
- Padelford, John W.—Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 16th, 1861.
- Parker, Warren C.—Company D, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted January 4th, 1864.
- Parmenter, Cyrus T.—Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 16th, 1861.
- Parmenter, Henry H.—Company G, Eighteenth Regiment. Enlisted October 3d, 1861; died in hospital at Sharpsburg, Va., November 4th, 1862, from wounds received at the battle of Antietam.

¹ Served in a South Carolina Regiment.

- Parmenter, Joshua R.—Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment.
Enlisted September 16th, 1861.
- Parmenter, William A.—Company E, Fifty-second Regiment.
Enlisted October 11th, 1862.
- Partridge, Daniel W.—Company G, Thirty-sixth Regiment.
Enlisted August 7th, 1862.
- Peacock, James—Company D, Fifteenth Regiment; Lieutenant,
Company D, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted
July 12th, 1861; re-enlisted April 9th, 1864.
- Putman, Austin—Company A, Thirty-fourth Regiment. En-
listed July 22d, 1862.
- Rood, James T.—Assistant Surgeon, Twenty-eighth Regiment.
Enlisted August 11th, 1862.
- Sault, Julius—Company A, First Vermont Cavalry. Enlisted
December 5th, 1861.
- Sawyer, John G.—Company —, First Regiment Heavy Artil-
lery. Enlisted August 14th, 1862.
- Schofield, John E.—Company D, Fifty-first Regiment. En-
listed October 14th, 1862.
- Skiff, Austin E.—Sergeant, Company F, Fifty-seventh Illi-
nois. Enlisted October 17th, 1861.
- Spaulding, J. Calvin—Sergeant, Company F, Twenty-fifth
Regiment. Enlisted September 16th, 1861.
- Streeter, Edwin H.—Corporal, Company I, Ninth New Hamp-
shire. Enlisted August 4th, 1862.
- Strong, Luther W.—Company C, Fifty-first Regiment; Ser-
geant, Company D, Fourth Regiment Heavy Artillery.
Enlisted August 20th, 1862; re-enlisted August 25th,
1864.
- Thompson, William—Seventy-ninth New York. Enlisted
March 1st, 1865.
- Truchon, Charles L.—Sergeant, Company E, Forty-second
Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Turner, Charles F.—Company F, Thirty-seventh Regiment.
Enlisted August 1st, 1862.
- Tuttle, Fred H.

- Verry, Herbert W.—Company A, Twenty-third Regiment.
Enlisted January 3d, 1864.
- Whitney, Jonas L.—Company A, Twenty-third Regiment.
Enlisted September 20th, 1861.
- Whittemore, Hczekiah P.—Corporal, Company E, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted January 5th, 1864.
- Woodbury, Robert — Company B, Frontier Cavalry. Enlisted December 31st, 1864.

A post of the GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC was organized in January, 1869, with seven charter members, which has been designated as Theron E. Hall Post, No. 77. Seventy-three comrades have in all been mustered into the ranks of this Post. It has disbursed considerable sums in aid to needy members, and has performed a public service of still greater value as an object lesson of patriotic purpose and service. Its members have thus not only perpetuated loyal memories, but have also inspired loyal devotion to the flag and the country.

The Commanders of the Post have been : Samuel W. Armington, January to July, 1869 ; Emory Rogers, July to December, 1869 ; Phineas R. Newell, 1870 ; John G. Schofield, 1871 ; Isaac Damon, 1872 ; Alfred Chaffin, 1873-4 ; Joseph H. Gleason, 1875-6 ; Hiram P. Newell, 1877-9 ; Joseph H. Gleason, 1880-1 ; Isaac Damon, 1882-3 ; George S. Graham, 1884-7 ; Thaddeus S. Clark, 1888-90 ; Gustavus Holden, 1891-2.

Memorial Day has been regularly observed by the Post, usually with public exercises in which the public generally have joined. For some years past an appropriation has been made from the town treasury to aid in defraying the expenses of the celebration. Addresses have been given on these occasions as follows: 1869, Major Theron E. Hall ; 1871, Colonel Joseph A. Titus, of Worcester ; 1872, Rev. A. J. Rich, of North Brookfield ; 1873, Mr. Frank M. Sprague, of Worcester ; 1876, Samuel C. Damon, D. D. ; 1877, Rev. Henry M. Rogers ; 1878, Rev. Amos B. Kendig, of Worcester ; 1879, Rev. Joseph F. Lovering, of Worcester ; 1880, Rev. Isaac S. Hamblin ; 1881, Mr. Alonzo K. Learned ; 1882, Hon. Theodore C. Bates,

of North Brookfield; 1883, Mr. William C. Whiting; 1884, Captain Alonzo A. White, of Worcester; 1885, Hon. Carleton C. Coffin, of Boston; 1886, Rev. Sullivan L. Holman, of Providence; 1887, William A. Gile, Esq., of Worcester; 1888, Rev. David F. Estes; 1889, Rev. Melvin J. Allen; 1890, Rev. Charles H. Pendleton, of Worcester; 1891, General Augustus B. R. Sprague, of Worcester; 1892, Rev. Benjamin H. Lane.

CHAPTER XI.

FACILITIES OF COMMUNICATION.

ROADS. — TURNPIKE. — HOTELS. — RAILROADS. — TELEGRAPH
AND TELEPHONE. — POST-OFFICES AND POSTMASTERS.



LONG with schools, roads have always demanded and received constant attention and liberal provision from the Town of Holden. The four public highways, which were ordered by the Proprietors, have been almost yearly increased, both in number and extent, until the entire town is veined with a network of roads, which, on the whole, very well accommodate the people of the town, and as a rule, are kept in excellent condition. The yearly cost of the maintenance of highways is at present fully two thousand dollars, which is expended under the control of a board of three Highway Commissioners. The highway tax was allowed to be worked out till 1861; since then it has been payable in money.

The Sixth Incorporated Turnpike of Massachusetts formerly traversed the town, passing through the Center. The charter for this road was granted June 21st, 1799, and was relinquished August 11th, 1828. It extended from Shrewsbury to Amherst, being forty-three miles, one hundred and twelve rods in length, was constructed in a single summer, and cost about thirty thousand dollars. The old toll-house used to stand a little west of the Center, near where the house of Deacon George S. Goddard now stands. In the olden time the route through Holden was a great thoroughfare of travel to and from Boston, for northwestern Massachusetts and the neighboring districts of

New Hampshire and Vermont. If the tavern books of Landlord Paul Davis and the Abbotts had not, unfortunately, been destroyed, they could tell a story that would surprise many to-day as to the extent of the traffic which then passed through our borders, and the distance which some of the tavern guests must travel to reach their homes again.

The first house of public entertainment in town was kept by John Child, near the Bullard place. For forty years, during the latter part of the last century and the earlier part of the present century, "Landlord Paul Davis" kept tavern in a building long since removed, on the summit of the hill overlooking Eagleville. The most famous hostelry in Holden was, however, "the old Abbott Tavern." This famous building was erected in 1763, and was occupied as a Tavern more than a hundred years. The house was kept by Abbotts of three successive generations, and was all this time in the hands of the family, except for two years, when it was leased to Samuel Davis. It has been said, "It is no exaggeration to state that Abbott's Hotel was known from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean." The house was first kept by John Abbott, from whom it passed to his son, Captain Lemuel Abbott. His son, Major Chenery Abbott, in turn succeeded him in the management of the hotel. Though a score of years have passed since the aged landlord closed his doors on the last departing guest, there are still many who remember the peculiar flavor of the beer which he brewed, and the rare quality of the flip which he prepared in a way of his own, and many others still kindly remember the abounding humor of Holden's last great landlord.

In 1875, Amasa Howe opened as a hotel, under the name of the Central House, the large brick dwelling at the corner of the common, built by Lemuel Davis. He was succeeded in the management by Lewis F. Hubbard, John M. Welch, Charles W. Foote and others, and, finally, by James C. Allen, who now occupies the building as a private residence.

A hotel was opened many years ago at Eagleville by John P. Maynard. Among others, Ethan Davis and Peter S. Winn



CENTER. LOOKING EAST FROM THE COMMON.

managed it at different times, but it has not been found possible to secure anything like a correct list of the proprietors in former years. For some time previous to 1865 it was controlled by Dustin Hall. In that year he sold to Edward F. Witt. The real estate has since been owned in turn by Martin V. B. Jefferson, Edward F. Merrick and Lyman G. Petts. The hotel has at different times been in charge of George Wright, Myron Kennan, Elijah Kennan, Sparrow Crosby, Alfred J. Kirby, Calvin Underwood, A. A. Whitney, W. Muzzey and Lyman G. Petts, the latter at four several times. When purchased by Mr. Petts the name was changed from the "Brick City Hotel" to the "Eagleville Hotel."

To Colonel Jarvis Abbott, Holden is under great and peculiar obligations. In his old age tree-planting became almost a mania with him, and to this fact we owe the well-grown shade trees which now adorn both the common and the old cemetery, and much more of the foliage which so beautifully embowers the village. It were indeed by no means to be regretted, if the sound sense of all our citizens tended as much to village improvement and the general advantage, as did the failing powers of Colonel Abbott.

Sidewalks had been provided by individuals opposite their respective premises, as authorized by vote of the town in 1849, but there was no public expenditure for the purpose, or concerted effort looking to extension or improvement of sidewalks, until 1890. In November, 1889, the Holden Village Improvement Society was organized by a few public-spirited citizens at the Center. Similar societies were soon organized at Jefferson and Quinapoxet. The following spring and summer, fairs were held in each village, which resulted in the raising of a large amount of money, which was expended at the Center and Jefferson for sidewalks, and at Quinapoxet for street lights. These societies still maintain their organization, and continue their work of carrying forward and indirectly stimulating village improvement. In three years several thousand dollars have been raised or secured by these societies, and expended

for improvements ; many hundred rods of concrete walks have been laid, besides a large amount of gravel walks ; hundreds of shade trees have been set out, and, what is of still greater importance, increased painstaking and taste in the care of buildings and grounds has been extensively developed throughout the town.

The burden assumed by the town of Holden to secure the construction of the Boston, Barre and Gardner Railroad has been discussed in the story of the last half century. This railroad runs in a northwesterly direction for about seven miles within the limits of the town. There are five stations in Holden — Chaffins, Dawsons, Holden, Jefferson and North Woods. The first two and the last are flag stations ; at the others all trains stop. The present agent and operator at Jefferson, George Henry Stearns, has been connected with the road and the station since its opening, September 4th, 1871. Though the railroad has by no means fulfilled all the hopes of its promoters, it has been of great importance and value to the town. For years before its construction there had been little growth to the town. Building at once began, especially at the Center, and property appreciated largely in value. The temporary withdrawal of the early train perceptibly checked this rapidly rising tide of prosperity, and development has since been gradual and only indirectly to be attributed to the railroad, without which, however, the measure of prosperity which has been enjoyed would have been out of the question.

The Massachusetts Central Railroad, running from Boston to Northampton, crosses the town from east to west. For the whole distance there is a sharp grade, with many curves and bridges. This railroad has two stations in town — Quinapoxet and Jefferson. The latter was for a long time the terminus of the road, it not having been opened for traffic beyond until 1887. About one hundred rods from the Jefferson station on each road, the Massachusetts Central passes above the Fitchburg. At one time there was a Y, so that cars could be transferred from one railroad to the other. This, however, has

since been removed. The Massachusetts Central was completed as far as the junction with the Boston, Barre and Gardner Railroad, December 1st, 1881. May 16th, 1883, trains ceased to run. In 1886, traffic was resumed, and the road was soon opened through to Northampton.

Lines of telegraph follow both roads, the line along the Boston and Maine being used only for operating purposes. There are public offices of the Western Union Telegraph Company in connection with the stations at Jefferson and Holden. Lines of telephone from Worcester to Princeton and Rutland pass through the town, with instruments in a number of offices. A line of long-distance telephone from Boston, west, also follows the road-bed of the Massachusetts Central, but no office has been established in the town.

For many years after the settlement of Holden, there was no post-office within the borders of the town. In the Massachusetts Spy, during the early years of the present century, may be found advertisements of letters for Rev. Mr. Avery and other residents of Holden, which were lying in the post-offices at Worcester and Leicester. Late in the winter of 1815 a post-office was established at Holden. A list of the successive postmasters, with the date of their respective appointments, follows: Benjamin Davis, February 21st, 1815; Merrill Davis, April 3d, 1819; Lemuel Davis, March 20th, 1826; Merrill Davis, January 28th, 1828; Dennis Davis, March 29th, 1832; Charles Chaffin, May 20th, 1835; Avery Davis, June 2d, 1849; Caleb Kendall, Jr., December 9th, 1852; Charles Chaffin, August 5th, 1853; Ethan Davis, June 29th, 1861; Samuel W. Armington, September 27th, 1866; Patrick A. McLaughlin, October 26th, 1885; Mary F. McLaughlin, September 30th, 1887; Samuel W. Armington, May 14th, 1889.

The next post-office was established at Jefferson. The name was Jeffersonville until 1891. The first postmaster was M. V. B. Jefferson, who was succeeded, in 1886, by William J. Prendergast, and he in turn, in 1889, by Edward W. Merrick.

Till the appointment of the last named, the office was kept at the railroad station by G. Henry Stearns, assistant postmaster. A post-office was also established in February, 1882, at Quinapoxet, with Cyrus G. Woods as postmaster. The name of the office was Woodville for a time, being later changed to Quinapoxet.

CHAPTER XII.

BUSINESS AND MANUFACTURES.

STORES. — BRICK-MAKING. — MILLS. — TANNERIES. — MANUFACTORIES.



LIKE the beginnings of much else in town, it is believed that the first store in town was kept near the Bullard place. The sign continued to offer "West India Goods" for sale within the memory of many now living. Among others, Lieutenant John Reed kept store before his removal to West Boylston.

In 1780, Samuel Damon came to Holden and engaged in mercantile business at the old Damon stand, which he carried on till his death in 1815. His son, Colonel Samuel Damon, was associated with him as a partner after 1810. He controlled the business almost all the time until his death in 1851, a part of the time having partners associated with himself. Some of the individuals or firms doing business at the Damon stand at different times were Damon & Bartlett, Boyden & Goodell, Damon & Knowlton, Knowlton & Allen, Charles L. Knowlton and Augustus F. Damon. The latter sold, in 1857, to Joseph H. Gleason, who gave way a year later to Paul Wadsworth & Son. Joseph H. Gleason and William H. Drury, in company, bought out the Wadsworths in February, 1865; sold to Charles F. Parker in February, 1867, and bought from him again January 1st, 1889. Mr. Drury took the business alone April 1st, 1871, and sold in 1868 to William H. Walker. In 1878, the business passed into the hands of Edwin H. Streeter, who was succeeded in turn by Albert A. Cobbett. He sold in 1890 to the Holden Store Company, who still carry on the business.

A little building, at first standing nearly in front of where the Baptist Church now stands, and later removed to the lot now occupied by the residence of Charles Flagg, was used for years by Lemuel and Merrill Davis as a post-office and for the sale of a few goods. About 1840 the building now occupied by Fred H. Fales as a store was erected by Ethan Davis, Sr. It was soon occupied by Boyden, Goodell & Davis as a boot and shoe manufactory, a few goods of their own make being sold on the premises at retail. In 1844 Avery Davis put in a stock of goods, doing the business of a general store for eight years. In 1852 he sold to Nichols & Bryant, who dissolved partnership after two years, Willis Bryant carrying on the business alone for two years longer, when he sold to Joseph H. Gleason. After the latter removed to the Damon stand, this building stood empty for some time, being for a while used as an armory. In 1865 a stock of goods was put in by Alfred Morse, with Samuel W. Armington in charge, who took the business in 1868, and carried it on till 1877. Fred H. Fales then succeeded him, and has carried on the business till the present time.

In the fall of 1889, Samuel W. Armington put a stock of goods in the building adjoining the Fales store, and has since carried on mercantile business in connection with the post-office.

When, in 1838, the store at the "West Village" was offered for sale by Eunice A. White, guardian for minor heirs, it was stated that the property had been improved as a store for twenty years. It was later occupied by several members of the Davis family. In 1856, it was in the hands of Alfred Morse, and was managed for him by J. Henry Warren from 1856 to 1868. The business was then purchased by Edward W. Merri-
rick, who carried it on for three years in company with his father, and then alone till 1882. James F. Putnam succeeded him, and carried on the store till his death in 1890, since which time it has been managed by his widow, Mrs. Sophia Putnam. J. W. Wheeler started a small grocery store at Eagleville, and ran it some years before 1884, when the business was bought

by Stephen T. Cole, who kept it till 1888, at which time Mr. Wheeler took charge again, managing it himself till the spring of 1892, when he closed it. Mr. Cole started, in May, 1889, another store in the immediate neighborhood.

In May, 1875, Gustavus S. Holden opened a general store in the building erected for the purpose by Howe & Jefferson. Five years later he associated with himself his brother, James A. Holden, and they took the firm name G. S. & J. A. Holden, which partnership still continues. In 1890 they left the Jefferson store, which was run for a time in the name of the Jefferson Manufacturing Company. The business passed into the hands of L. G. Petts & Co., October 1st, 1891.

The store at Quinapoxet was erected and is owned in connection with the factory in that village. It has been occupied successively by A. P. Sampson, Cuthbertson & Crawshaw, Ira D. Bates, Johnson Brothers, Courtney, Knapp, A. A. Cobbett, Feeley & Burns, and G. S. & J. A. Holden. The last named firm rented the store in 1887, and ran it for three years in connection with their business at Jefferson. In 1890 they centered all their interests at Quinapoxet.

In Whitney's History of Worcester County, it is stated: "There is a brick yard two miles and a half northeast of the meeting house, where are made annually sixty thousands of bricks." The yard here referred to was in the part of the town soon after set off to West Boylston. Brick were manufactured in this yard for many years. It may also be noted that Josiah Ball, and later his son, Israel M. Ball, made brick to a limited extent on their place, the Ball farm, which has for some years, till 1892, been occupied by Lorenzo D. Newton.

The water privilege at Bryantville, which had been used by Town Bartlett as a candle-wicking mill, and afterwards as a wood-working shop, was improved as at present by Lyman Bryant, who came to town in 1827. He was at first, for a short time, in partnership with James Cowden. The planing mill and cider mill are at present owned and run by Frederick L. Bryant.

The mills built by Asa and Ira Broad, later passed into the hands of William Howe and Martin V. B. Jefferson, and from 1871 to 1877 were run by the firm of Howe, Jefferson & Austin. Waldo E. Austin, the junior partner, then bought out the interests of Messrs. Howe and Jefferson, and has continued the business to the present time. He uses the mills as a basis for his business as a contractor and builder, preparing builders' finish, and also does mill work, especially repairs of fulling mills and dye vats. He also fills orders for custom work, and carries on a general lumber business.

The first tannery in town was about half a mile west of the Center, at the foot of "Landlord Davis'" hill. The exact date of its construction is not known. December 23d, 1789, the tannery, together with seventeen acres of land, was sold by John Watson to Heman Richardson. He was succeeded in the management by his son, Edward Richardson, from whom the tannery took the name by which it was often called. There was for many years a small tan yard on the Hall place in the south part of the town. In 1825 John P. Maynard built a tannery at Eagleville, across the road from the present site of the Holden Mills. In 1840 this tannery passed into the hands of the brothers, Waterman G. and Samuel Warren, who carried on the business in partnership for ten years. Samuel Warren continued the business at Eagleville for about five years longer. W. G. Warren, in the spring of 1850, purchased the Richardson tannery, and carried on the tanning business there until 1882; till 1867 alone, for the last fifteen years in company with his son Samuel. In 1874, W. G. Warren, in partnership with his sons, Berthier and Henry W., under the firm name of B. & H. W. Warren & Co., erected the brick tannery at the Center, which furnishes facilities for turning out its specialty, card leather, that are unsurpassed, if indeed equalled, anywhere else in the state of Massachusetts. In 1881, Samuel Warren became a partner, and the firm name was changed to W. G. Warren & Sons. Since the death of the father in 1886, the business has been continued by the surviving partners under the style of W. G. Warren's Sons. In

1887 the two tanneries then in operation, with a capital of \$3,500, employed four hands, and tanned one thousand and eighty-five hides, the value of the leather being estimated at \$5,300. The tannery of W. G. Warren's Sons now employs sixteen hands, and there has been a corresponding increase in the number of hides tanned.

The first manufacturing in Holden was done at Unionville. "Messrs. Eleazer Rider & Sons commenced spinning Cotton Yarn at this place in 1809. These persons had been previously engaged in the same business, at West Boylston. It is stated upon good authority, that they were among the first, (if not the first), manufacturers of cotton yarn in Worcester County. In 1810 the factory of the Messrs. Rider contained 48 spindles. The same year, the establishment was purchased by Mr. Joshua Bassett and Mr. Farnum White. An addition was then made of 56 spindles. Mr. John Rudman purchased of Bassett and White, in 1814. The factory was sold to Mr. John Slater, 1819. In the following year, repairs and alterations were commenced. In 1821, Mr. John Lees became the owner, who continued to make repairs and additions during the three following years. Weaving by the power loom commenced 1822. In 1824, Mr. Lees sold nineteen bales of sheeting to Mr. Samuel Parkman, Jr., of Boston, who shipped the goods to Batavia. It was reported at the time, to have been the first shipment of cotton goods from this country, which passed around Cape Good-Hope."¹

Mr. Lees ran the mill more than twenty years, the firm name in 1841 being Lees & Eldridge. Later Jonathan M. Ladd leased the mill and run it a number of years. The mill was last in the hands of Charles L. Truchon, who confined its operations to the spinning of cotton yarn. It was destroyed by fire, August 8th, 1882. When burned, it was a two story building, eighty by forty feet in size, with an ell twenty by sixty, was valued at \$16,000, and gave employment to about twenty hands.

¹ Damon History, pp. 145, 146.

It is an accredited tradition that the first water privilege ever occupied in town was at Chaffinville, where John Bigelow built a mill in 1726. Manufacturing was begun here in 1817 by Royal H. Chaffin. He at first made a specialty of dyeing wool and coloring yarns, in which he attained great excellence and a very wide reputation, the first prize having been awarded to him in a competition of much importance. Mr. Chaffin ran the mill for many years, and then sold out to his son, Alfred H. Chaffin. In his hands woolen goods suitable for prison uniforms were principally made. In 1879 it was a one-set mill giving employment to nine hands. June 20th, just after it had been refitted and leased to Peter Scanlon & Co., it was burned at an estimated loss of \$7,000. About 1870, Alfred H. Chaffin put in an unusually fine grist-mill. This was later burned and rebuilt and was burned again in 1890.

In 1825, a Mr. Morse built a factory at the village now known as Jefferson. It soon passed into the hands of John Jefferson. In 1841, it was a satinet factory, containing one hundred and eighty spindles and eight looms. The Damon History says¹: "During the late 'hard times' the proprietor has devoted more attention to agriculture, than to the manufacture of satinet—at a 'dead loss.' " For many years, previous to 1830, Colonel Artemas Dryden was engaged in this village in the manufacture of machines for carding. Later he built a satinet factory, which, in 1841, contained three hundred spindles and eight looms. At that time it was owned by Samuel Damon, but was not running for the same reasons as Mr. Jefferson's. In 1858, William Howe and Theron E. Hall formed a co-partnership and under the style of Howe & Hall engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods at this place. In 1860, Martin V. B. Jefferson bought out Major Hall, and the business was continued under the firm name of Howe & Jefferson until 1886. During the continuance of this partnership they so extended their business that, in 1886, instead of running one set of machinery as in 1860, they were running twelve sets. When the

¹ Damon History, p. 146.

partnership terminated after twenty-six years, there were only two other manufacturing establishments in the state which had run so long under the same firm name without change on account of death, failure or other circumstances.

January 1st, 1886, Mr. Jefferson purchased the interest of Mr. Howe, and has since conducted the business under the style of the Jefferson Manufacturing Company. The plant in 1892 consisted of two mills (besides a shoddy mill, leased to William Day), an office building, six storehouses, a store and forty-six tenements. The upper mill contained seven sets of cards and forty-six looms, and was run by a Corliss engine of one hundred and twenty-five horse power. The lower mill contained seven sets of cards and eighty-four looms, and was run by a Wheelock engine of two hundred and fifty horse power, which was put in place in 1891. There were two hundred and seventy-five hands on the pay-roll. The upper mill was devoted to the manufacture of fancy cassimeres, and the output amounted to twenty-three thousand yards per month; the lower mill was devoted to satinets, of which one hundred thousand yards per month were marketed.

December 8th, 1892, the Jefferson Manufacturing Company were heavy losers from fire. The flames first appeared about half-past eleven in the forenoon in the picker-room, a separate building near the lower mill, and the lower mill was soon burned to the ground. The upper mill also took fire, but was saved, though considerably damaged by smoke and water. The loss amounted to \$150,000, which was more than half covered by insurance.

The mill at North Woods, or Ruralville, was erected by B. T. Southgate of Blackstone for a woolen mill, but in 1827 it was changed to a cotton mill by William Buffum. It afterwards passed into the hands of Colonel Samuel Damon, who owned it in 1840, when it contained fourteen looms and one thousand four hundred spindles. Later, Wesley Howard made bagging there; then for a time, about 1850, cotton cloth was manufactured by J. W. Freeman, who was succeeded by A. P. Colvin. From 1858 to 1862, it was controlled by Wright &

Morse, with William H. Walker as manager. In 1862, it was transferred to Walker & Wright. In 1868, it was taken by James H. Wright, who ran it till about 1874, when the mill became the property of the West Boylston Manufacturing Company. They ran it for some years with Whipple Harris as agent, and in 1882 leased it to A. H. Turner & Co., who still run it. The mill contains three sets of cards and ten broad looms, and about seventy-five thousand yards of fancy cassimeres are annually manufactured. About forty-five hands are employed.

Deacon John Lovell, for many years previous to 1841, had run a machine for "custom carding," and a small mill for the manufacture of cotton batting and wicking. In 1837, the mill contained six hundred spindles, twelve hands were employed, and ten thousand pounds of warp, eight thousand pounds of batting, and twelve thousand pounds of wicking, were manufactured. On Sunday, May 24th, 1847, the mill and its contents were burned. At this time the mill was owned by David Parmenter, and the machinery was owned and operated by Holbrook & Wilder. After some years the mill was rebuilt, and in 1873 it was controlled by the Lovellville Manufacturing Company; in 1876, by Messenger & Wright of New York; in 1879, by the Lovell Woolen Company, under management of Klebert & Findeisen, and in 1886, it was purchased by Cyrus G. Wood, and is now combined with his mill at Quinapoxet, the whole being treated as one plant.

The factory at Quinapoxet and the village connected with it, stand on six hundred acres of land, formerly a part of the "French Land," which were bought by Damon & Thaxter in 1827. In 1831, Samuel Damon, having purchased the interest of his partner, erected a mill for the manufacture of cotton sheeting. In 1841, this mill contained one thousand four hundred spindles and forty looms, manufacturing two hundred and fifty thousand yards of sheeting. Colonel Damon, with various partners, controlled the mill until his death in 1851. In 1856, it was sold to A. F. Smith of Grafton. From 1862, it was run

for some years by Howe & Myers. It then passed into the hands of Stowell & Ward, who manufactured satinets. May 27th, 1871, their mill was burned with an estimated loss of thirty thousand dollars. It was at once rebuilt, was run for a time by Wood & Ward, and in 1876 was purchased by Cyrus G. Wood. This mill, in connection with the Lovellville property, contains ten sets of cards, gives employment to one hundred and seventy-five hands, and produces one hundred and twenty thousand yards of satinet per month.

The Moss Brook Mill, at the village known as Dawsonville, formerly called Delaneyville, has been run since 1873 by Charles Dawson. Prior to 1854 it was the property of Colonel Samuel Damon, and was put to various uses, having originally been a shingle mill. It was then disposed of to Benjamin Franklin, who manufactured forks of all kinds. In 1862 or 1863 the property was sold to Ashworth & Day. Mr. Day soon took it alone and manufactured shoddy for several years. The first shoddy made in town, was made here, "a company of Englishmen with machinery imported from England" having been engaged in the business as early as 1857. March 14, 1866, it was sold to Kimball & Talbot; October 15th, 1867 to John O'Brien; December 19th, 1868, to Crompton & Dawson of Worcester, who were engaged in the mill supply business. December 20th, 1873, the partnership between Mr. Dawson and Mr. Guild, who had succeeded Mr. Crompton, was dissolved, and Mr. Dawson, who had removed to Holden in July, 1870, devoted his whole time to Moss Brook Mill. He has since that time greatly improved both the mill and the village. The mill itself has been much enlarged, and is now run by an eighty horse power engine, and contains four sets of woollen machinery. Ten or twelve tenements, a dry house, a picker house, store-houses and other buildings have also been added. At first satinets and melton flannels were made, but for the last ten years the product has been fancy chevots and cassimeres, of which about ten thousand yards a year are turned out.

In 1864 and 1865, a stone dam, eighty-five feet long, later extended to one hundred and fifteen feet, was built across the Quinapoxet river at the site of the Springdale mill. A two-set wooden mill was then erected, but was burned in 1875. A stone shoddy mill had been put up in 1874, and in 1876 the four-set stone mill now standing, was built by G. J. Smith, who ran it for a time, and afterward leased it to different parties. In July, 1892, after extensive repairs, it was started by its present owner, James Dorr, who is manufacturing satinets.

The saw and grist mills at Eagleville were purchased in 1821 of Caleb Kendall by Samuel Clark, who erected a small factory. This mill was burned in 1834, but in the following year it was rebuilt, and was later enlarged to its present dimensions. In 1840, it was owned by Le Baron Putnam, and was run under the style of The Eagleville Manufacturing Company. It had at this time sixteen hundred spindles, and the annual product amounted to two hundred and seventy-five thousand yards of shirting.

October 16th, 1852, Luther Wright and Alfred Morse purchased the property, and October 1st, 1860, by purchase of his partner's share, Mr. Morse became sole owner. The trustee of his estate sold the property, January 5th, 1874, to Milton S. Morse, who died in the spring of 1877. The mill was run under the name of Estate of Milton S. Morse until 1881, when the present style of the Holden Mills was adopted. The death of the widow, in 1881, and the purchase by Stillman F. Morse, January 1st, 1888, of one-third of the property has made the firm for the last five years to consist of George M. Morse, Susan A. Monroe and Stillman F. Morse. Stillman F. Morse, the present agent, took charge of the business December 31st, 1879.

The property consists of a large mill, an office, a boiler house, a store and about twenty tenements. The power consists of a water wheel of one hundred and forty-three horse power and a steam engine of one hundred horse power. The mill

contains five thousand six hundred and sixty-four spindles, and eighty-six twenty-eight inch, and fifty-two forty inch looms. Seventy hands are regularly employed. The weekly product is twenty thousand yards of print cloth and nine thousand five hundred yards of four-leaf twill goods. This mill has the reputation of making the best print cloth which is sold in the Providence market.

Half a century ago the making of boots and shoes was an industry of considerable importance in this town. In 1837, five thousand eight hundred pairs of boots and ten thousand pairs of shoes were made. This industry has been transferred to other places. In spite of this loss, the number of persons employed in manufacturing increased from two hundred and twenty in 1837 to about six hundred in 1885, and the value of the product increased in a much greater ratio.

CHAPTER XIII.

PERSONAL NOTICES.

REV. MELVIN J. ALLEN.



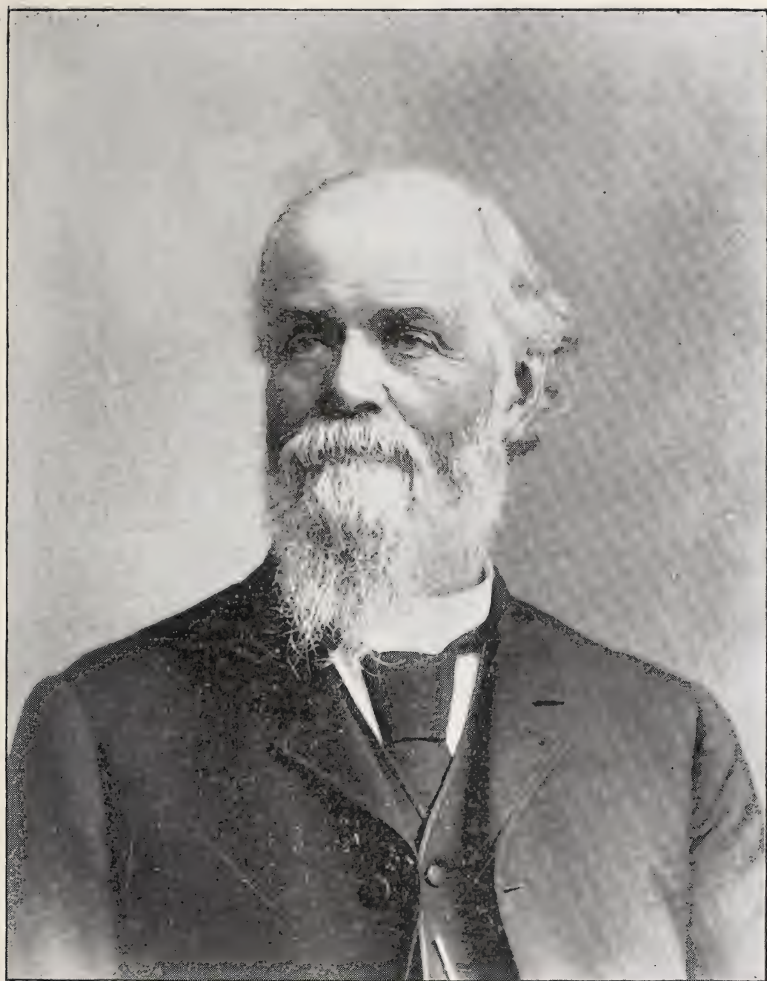
THE Rev. Melvin J. Allen was born in Cincinnati, N. Y., May 7th, 1852. He studied at the Cortland Normal School, and at the Cazenovia Seminary, and was graduated from Amherst College in 1879, and from Andover Theological Seminary in 1882, taking also a post-graduate year at Andover, 1890-91. He has been pastor at Ashby, 1882 to 1888, where he was ordained November 8th, 1882, at Holden, 1888 to 1890, and at Littleton, N. H., since 1891.

JOSEPH STANFORD AMES, M. D.

Joseph Stanford Ames, son of Lewis and Mehitable Forbush Ames, was born in Marlborough, December 21st, 1828. His boyhood and youth were spent upon his father's farm. He attended the common schools and the Marlborough Academy.

Naturally fond of books and of investigation, his thoughts were early turned to the study of medicine. He accordingly attended the Medical School of Harvard College, and was graduated from the Berkshire Medical College at Pittsfield in 1858. He became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1860.

A few months after his graduation he married, January 5th, 1859, Lizzie, daughter of John and Catherine Parmenter Perry, who was born in Sudbury, July 20th, 1835. He began the practice of his profession in Holden in November,



J. S. Ames.

1858, and this has been his home for more than a generation. Their only child, Josephine Stanford, was born July 24th, 1869, and died September 16th, 1891.

He easily secured, by the wide range of his knowledge, by the breadth and the catholicity of his views, and by the uprightness of his character, the esteem of his fellow citizens as a man; and by his uniform kindness and courtesy of manner, and his professional integrity and skill, won their confidence as a physician. He has ever been, and still is, an earnest student of the ever progressive science of medicine, and a wide reader of general scientific and political literature; and maintains a most active interest in the great questions, political, social, moral, and religious, so characteristic of the present century.

His tall and erect form, his singularly unaffected manner, his wit, his knowledge of men and things, his interest in the life and welfare of those with whom he has lived, and to whom he has devoted professional skill and ability of a high order, and his unimpeachable honor render him a marked personality in the life of Holden in this generation.

REV. ELISHA ANDREWS.

The Rev. Elisha Andrews was born at Middletown, Conn., Sept. 29th, 1768. At twelve years of age he moved with his parents to Vermont. His father, in his early years, was a teacher and surveyor, and Elisha acquired knowledge with remarkable facility, and was competent to impart all the instruction required in the district schools of that day.

When about seventeen, he removed to Galway, N. Y., where he followed teaching and surveying for several years, residing during this period with a pious aunt, through whose godly counsels he received such convictions as ultimately led him to the Saviour. At nineteen he commenced to preach, and in 1793 he was ordained pastor of the church in Fairfax, Vt., where he remained until the winter of 1796, when he located in Hopkin-

ton, N. H., for about a year, and then transferred his residence to Nottingham West (now Hudson). Early in 1800, he became pastor of the church in Templeton. At that time this church had members in twelve or fifteen towns. For fourteen years he had regular appointments at Holden, twenty miles distant ; at Barre, about twelve ; at Athol, about ten, seldom passing and repassing without preaching at the intermediate stations. He visited Holden once a month for fourteen years, except once on account of sickness ; he was equally regular, though less frequent, in his visits to Barre and Athol. At least twelve churches now occupy the ground over which his pastoral labors extended during the first ten years of his residence in Templeton, and he is still remembered in that region as the Apostle of the Baptists.

In February, 1816, Mr. Andrews removed to Hinsdale, N. H., where the Baptist Church was the only one in the town, and where for several years he ministered to Baptists and others. Afterwards he preached at Princeton, Leominster, Templeton and South Gardner, where he gathered a church, and again at Hinsdale, where he was regarded as the senior pastor until the close of his life, February 3d, 1840.

Mr. Andrews possessed great native ability, and his theological information was remarkable. He received the honorary degree of Master of Arts from Brown University in 1803. He was frequently invited to preach upon public occasions, and was honored over New England as one of the purest and most useful men in the Baptist denomination.

As a writer, Mr. Andrews was known chiefly among those of his own denomination, and as a defender of their faith. Some among his published writings are, "The Moral Tendencies of Universalism," "Strictures on the Rev. Mr. Brooks' Essay on Terms of Communion," "A Vindication of the Distinguishing Sentiments of the Baptists," "A Review of John Wesley's Tract on the Falling from Grace," "A Review of Winchester's Dialogues on Universal Restoration."



J. W. Armstrong

SAMUEL WALLACE ARMINGTON.

Samuel Wallace Armington was born in St. Johnsbury, Vt., February 11th, 1837. When about two years of age his parents came to Holden, and made their home in the west part of the town on what was then known as the Davis farm, where his father engaged in farming and in the wood and lumber business.

His boyhood days were spent on the farm, in the wood lots and in attendance upon the common schools of the town. When about sixteen years old he went into a store as clerk and from that time until 1861, except a year passed in Vermont at his native place, he was in stores in Holden and Worcester.

Though desiring very much to enlist in the early part of 1861, he did not because his parents and friends thought him not sufficiently strong to endure the hardships of a soldier's life.

He did not enlist until the call was made, after the disaster at Ball's Bluff, for men to fill up the Fifteenth Regiment, a regiment than which few in the Army of the Potomac saw harder service. He was with the regiment during 1862 and 1863, and, in spite of the long marches and various hardships of army life, was present and took part in nearly every battle in which his regiment was engaged.

He was twice wounded, once at the battle of Fair Oaks, and again at Fredericksburg, but in each case only slightly. At Mine Run, Va., November 27th, 1863, he with others was taken prisoner, and was kept for more than a year in the prisons at Belle Isle, Andersonville, Charleston and Florence.

While larger and stronger men than he broke down under the strain, Mr. Armington, of more slender build, showed better powers of endurance. Still, so great was the change wrought during those months that few would have recognized him when his release came, December 16th, 1864.

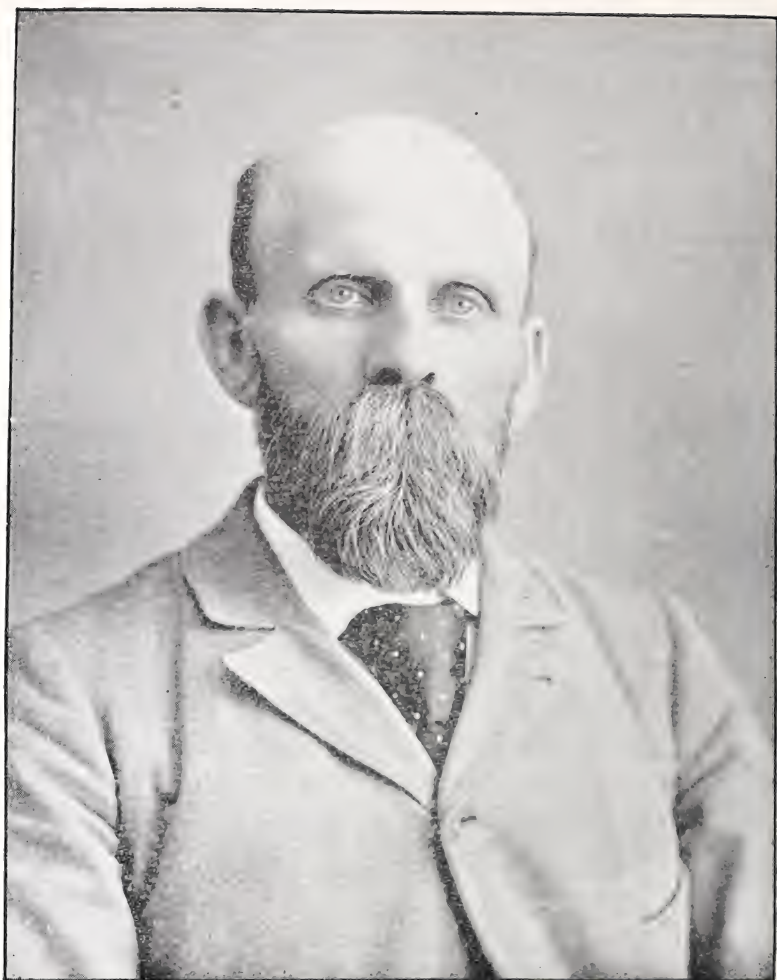
Before he had sufficiently recovered from the effects of his prison life to do a soldier's duty, the war closed. He did not

return to his regiment, and was discharged from the service in June, 1865. Besides Mr. Armington, two of his brothers were in the army, both of whom lost their lives, and are buried in unknown graves: Alonzo C. Armington, Third Vermont Regiment, who was killed at Savage Station, in one of the Seven Days' Battles, and Henry C. Armington, Ninth Maine Regiment, who was killed in front of Petersburg at the blowing up of the fort.

After partially regaining his health, Mr. Armington returned to mercantile business, and took charge of one of the stores in Holden Centre.

Three years later, in 1868, he bought the store, and carried on business for himself until 1877. Since then he has lived at what is known as Pine Grove Farm, a place that under his management has become one of the pleasantest resorts in the region for summer visitors from the cities. He was married October 8th, 1865, to Harriet Shaw of Dresden, Me., who died May 22d, 1884. They had two daughters, May Josephine, who was born May 28th, 1868, and died December 13th, 1877, and Fannie Louise, who was born June 11th, 1872.

In 1866, he was appointed postmaster of Holden and held that office until 1885. He was re-appointed in 1889, and is postmaster at the present time, and also proprietor of one of the stores in the Centre. He was the first commander of Post 77, G. A. R., of Holden. Mr. Armington has served his town in the following offices: Town clerk, 1868, 1869, 1873; Town Treasurer, 1873, 1874, 1875, and Selectman, 1881. He was also chosen to represent his district in the State Legislature of 1887.



Yours Truly
E. Austin

WALDO E. AUSTIN.

Waldo E. Austin was born in the town of Franklin, Vt., on the 31st day of August, 1839. His parents were David Brown and Rebecca Hunt Austin. During his early boyhood his father, a country blacksmith, carried on business in a shop just over the Canadian border, but moved to the center village of the town when he was about ten years of age.

His education was such as the district schools afforded, supplemented by a course at the Franklin Academy, and his experiences in his father's shop where he assisted in the manufacture of all kinds of farming tools, such as axes, hoes, and forks, and in such other work as belonged to the blacksmith's art of that time.

Leaving home in the spring of 1858, he spent a year in Canada West, near the city of Brantford, going from there to Rockbridge, Wis., where he resided for three years, teaching school winters, with farming and shop work during summers.

Returning to Vermont in 1862, he worked in a wagon shop until winter, when he again taught school, gaining his first experience in "boarding around."

In January, 1864, he came to Holden and soon entered the employ of Ira Broad, in the mills where he has since spent so many busy years. The work being too heavy for his strength he gave it up, and in the autumn entered the employ of Howe & Jefferson, where he remained two years. Office work proving too confining, he then entered the service of Theron E. Hall, and had charge of his mill in Sutton for the season. Returning to Holden he again worked for Mr. Broad until 1868, when he removed to Somerville, where he carried on his business of contractor and builder for three years. Ira Broad having died in the meantime, and the mill property being in the market, his attention was called to it by his former employers, Howe & Jefferson, and, returning to Holden, he, with them, purchased the property and carried on a general sawmill and

lumber business, which soon included building also, until 1877. Since that time he has continued his business alone.

During all these years he has manifested a live interest in whatever tended to the material, moral, and educational welfare of the town, serving on various committees and in the different boards of town officers.

On the 13th day of October, 1862, he married Abbie Priscilla Chase, daughter of Aaron and Mercy Harris Chase. They have three children:

Herbert Austin, born September 14th, 1866; graduated from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1890, and is Professor of Natural Sciences at the Maryland State Normal School, Baltimore, Md.

Susie Lillian, born June 8th, 1868; a member of the class of 1895, Vassar College.

Waldo Edward, born March 18th, 1873.

REV. JOSEPH AVERY.¹

Rev. Joseph Avery was a son of Deacon William Avery, South Parish, Dedham, and was born October 14th, 1751. Before the close of his sixteenth year he entered Harvard University. During his junior year his mind was deeply impressed with the subject of personal religion, and to such a degree that for a season he was unable to pursue his regular studies. During the four years of college life he was an uncommonly exemplary and conscientious student. He has been heard to remark that at one time he was the only undergraduate of the university not addicted to the use of tobacco. He graduated in the class of 1771, with much honor. With some of his fellow students he carried forward a friendly correspondence long after leaving the hallowed retreats of Cambridge. Dr. Tappan,

¹ The sketch of Mr. Avery in the Damon History was rewritten by Dr. Damon, and was published in its modified form in the *Massachusetts Spy* in 1875. Every word of the above sketch has been taken from these papers of Dr. Damon, although neither form of the sketch has been unvaryingly followed.

Hollis Professor at the University, was an intimate friend and correspondent.

He was ordained and settled over the church in Holden in December, 1774. Rev. Jabez Haven of Dedham preached the ordination sermon, which was published. In December, 1777, he was married to Miss Allen of Worcester, niece of the celebrated Samuel Adams of Revolutionary memory. The intercourse of Mr. Avery with his family was uniformly characterized by kindness and affection. The temporal and spiritual welfare of his children was a subject of great solicitude.

His habits as a country parson were exceedingly methodical. He devoted certain days to farm labor, and others to study in the preparation of his sermons. His sermons were usually written. He numbered his sermons until 1816, when No. 2180 was found written upon one of them. The latest date, however, when a sermon was written, was in the year 1822, two years before his death. It is not known that any of his sermons were ever published, although he is known to have written frequently for the press. His style was remarkably pure and chaste, and in doctrinal views he was Evangelical and Calvinistic. Dr. Thomas Scott was a favorite commentator.

It is a noteworthy fact that Mr. Avery carefully examined the marginal references of Isaiah Thomas' quarto Bible, while it was going through the press at Worcester.

This edition of the Bible, I have the impression, was the first edition in English printed in America. It was printed and published in Worcester in 1791. Eliot's Indian Bible had been previously printed in the seventeenth century. Mr. Thomas remarks in the editor's preface to this edition, "The marginal notes and references to the quarto edition were all previously examined and compared with the text by the minister of Holden; every sheet of the text, before its committment to the press, by the clergymen of Worcester."

It was during the later years of the pastorate of Mr. Avery, that the great Unitarian controversy prevailed throughout the eastern part of Massachusetts, and, perhaps, in no part of the State was the controversy more rife than in the vicinity of

Worcester. In several of the neighboring towns a division of the church was the unhappy result, while in Holden no such schism occurred. This was, doubtless, owing in a great measure to the mild, yet strictly gospel style of Mr. Avery's preaching, devoid of controversy.

During his long pastorate of half a century, he ever exhibited the conduct of a peace-making minister of Christ. He was styled a "peacemaker." Envable title! Proud distinction! He was never heard to complain of his arduous labors as a pastor. When some of his parishioners desired him to relinquish his pastoral charge, the tears were seen to course his cheeks, furrowed by age. He loved the people of his charge, and his love was abiding until the close of his life.

"Nor e'er had chang'd, nor wished to change his place."

He appeared in his pulpit until within two weeks of his death, which occurred March 5th, 1824.

REMINISCENCES OF MRS. MARY AVERY.¹

It has been thought that a few reminiscences of Mrs. Mary Avery, the city-bred young woman who came to share the lot of the poor country minister, may be of interest to the descendants of those among whom her husband labored, and that these recollections may have a historical value as well, in showing the difference of the customs and manners of a hundred years ago from those of the present time.

She was born in 1755, and lived in what is now the city of Boston till some years after the death of her parents, passing the latter part of her sojourn there in the family of her mother's brother, Samuel Adams, so widely spoken of as the "Father of the American Revolution." She was, as might be supposed, well imbued with the patriotism of that eventful period of our country's history, and often, in advanced age, would regale the

¹ By Mrs. Mary A. W. Davis, a granddaughter.

ears of her grandchildren with accounts of the sayings and doings of the "high sons and daughters of liberty," whom she held in high esteem.

Referring to the Boston Massacre, she would tell them of the consternation which filled every heart, when a mounted horseman rode furiously through the streets, shouting at the top of his voice: "Our brethren are lying like slaughtered sheep in King Street!" She would also speak of a class of young ladies of "high rank," who were associated together to be taught the art of spinning flax on the little wheel, under the auspices of those same "high sons and daughters of liberty," and of an exhibition of skill at the close of the term of instruction, given in Faneuil Hall, when a prize was presented to the most successful pupil. Great was her satisfaction in saying that it was adjudged to Miss Polly Allen, and with quite an air would she declare that, "The value of the prize (a laurel wreath) was insignificant in itself, but the honor!"

How the poor country minister met and fell in love with this fair maiden, was on this fashion. She had left Boston, and was living with her elder brother, Joseph Allen, then of Leicester. He had buried his wife, and Polly came to fill the place of housekeeper to him, and to care for his two motherless children. In pursuance of a custom then and afterwards in vogue, for prominent members of the congregation to invite to dinner any stranger exchanging with their own pastor, Mr. Allen on one occasion welcomed Mr. Avery as a guest. The young minister was at once smitten with the charms of his honored host's sister, and in due course of time sought her in marriage and received her December 10th, 1777.

It was a new and unaccustomed field that opened before her, but she nobly acquitted herself, in the midst of many deprivations and unwearied toil. It was the darkest period in our Revolutionary war, and all felt it in their homes in scantiness of supplies. Mrs. Avery mentioned, as one fruit of the efforts of the kind parishioners to provide for their pastor, the spectacle of twenty frozen spare-ribs which adorned the attic rafters on her arrival at her new home.

As illustrating social style and customs prevailing, and her ignorance of the difference between city and country, she related that, being informed that the wife of a prominent parishioner had come to make a bridal call, and possessed with a strong desire to show proper respect to her visitor, she deliberated whether she should array herself in a blue silk or a crimson paduasoy, but finally decided upon the latter, as being the least pretentious. On descending from her chamber she was surprised to find her caller dressed in clean every-day apparel in what was called a "long-short skirt" (more of the short than the long), with a short sacque above, and with distaff in hand to improve the time of her call in spinning. The minister's new wife knew better the next time than to appear in silk. It may be noted in passing that she had an unusually large supply, because silk dresses descended by inheritance from mother to daughter, and Mrs. Avery, like her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, was an only daughter.

It is not to be forgotten that domestic duties were in some respects more severe at that time than now. All the cloth used in the family or for personal wear, was, in well-appointed households of the middling class, woven in the house, and the tailor and the shoemaker were accustomed to go from place to place to do what was needed to set forth their customers properly for another season.

The minister was expected hospitably to entertain his traveling ministerial brethren. Having at one time kindly furnished ample provision over night for man and two beasts to a perfect stranger hitherto, when the year came round he presented himself to the lady of the house again, quoting the proverb, "'One good turn deserves another,' and having been so well served once, I have come again." She did not like it. She was in the habit of saying to the good man of the house, as they sat down to the table: "Take off, as you serve, some of the best pieces of the meat and put them on a plate;" and then arranging vegetables on the same dish, she would cover it and set it in a warm corner of the old-fashioned fireplace, for any

chance arrival after the family had dined. Seeing this process gone through with on three successive days, and an unexpected guest each day to partake of the provision thus prudently made, a new and young assistant inquired if she always had some one come for a dinner after the family was through. From this account it will not create surprise unbounded to learn that the incumbent of the Holden pulpit bore a burden of debt, incurred for his education and some little "setting out" for his daughters as they grew up and went to fill other homes, till the death of his eldest son. The untimely death by accident of this son, who had accumulated, as a bookbinder, by untiring industry and economy, what in those days entitled him to be called "well off," relieved his aged father, as partial heir, from debt near the close of his life.

Order and neatness were striking characteristics of Mrs. Avery's reign, which was supreme in her own household, and she became an accomplished, though somewhat exacting housekeeper. Her mind was well stored with hymns and poems, learned in her youth, and, possessing in a remarkable degree the power of aptness in quotation, she was interesting in conversation; and with the wheels all running smoothly in household affairs, it was a delightful home, and much enjoyed by the young ladies of the town and others. She survived her husband eighteen years, and died in 1842 in the home of her eldest daughter, Mrs. Aaron White of Boylston, with whom a large portion of her widowhood had been passed.

None of the descendants of this worthy couple became permanent residents of Holden, but some of the grandchildren are still living in advanced years, who recall their visits there, while they add:

" 'Tis now become a history little known,
That once we called that past'ral house our own."

REV. THOMAS EARLE BABB.

The Rev. Thomas Earle Babb, son of William George and Anna Earle Babb, was born in Orange, N. J., August 21st, 1840; fitted for college at New York University Grammar School; was graduated from Amherst College in the class of 1865; studied at Bangor Theological Seminary 1865 to 1867, and was graduated from Andover Theological Seminary in 1868. He was ordained at Eastport, Me., January 19th, 1869, and has been pastor at Eastport, Me., 1868 to 1871; Oxford, 1871 to 1878; of the Presbyterian Church at Victor, N. Y., 1878 to 1883; at West Brookfield from December 1st, 1883 to December 1st, 1889; of the Third Congregational Church, Chelsea, from December 1st, 1869 to June 1st, 1892; since then at Holden.

EDWARD BAILEY.

Edward Bailey was born in Holden, February 24th, 1814. He was the son of James Bailey, who was born October 10th, 1780, in New Jersey, and married Elizabeth Gleason, who was born in 1785, in Marlborough. Their children were:

Elizabeth, born September 28th, 1809; married Charles C. Chaffin, of Walpole, N. H.; died January 12th, 1842.

Charlotte, born June 21st, 1811; married Rev. Aldin Grout.

Edward, born February 24th, 1814.

John, born March 8th 1817; died May 5th, 1818.

James H., born July 20th, 1820; died at Attleborough, where he was principal of an academy, May 6th, 1856.

Abigail Goodell, born April 19th, 1825; married Joseph H. Gleason.

The father was a small farmer, and the sons were brought up to work on the farm. Edward received a common school

education, which was supplemented in a small measure by attendance on the yearly "select schools". He also attended, for parts of two terms, academies at Amherst and Andover, where he gained a little acquaintance with Latin and Greek. Finding that his constitution would not endure the strain of paying his way while securing a liberal education, he consented to become a missionary teacher at the Hawaiian Islands, under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. He sailed on the "Mary Frazier", December 14th, 1836, and arrived at the Islands the next April.

He was stationed first for two years in Kohala, on the Island of Hawaii, then for one year at the high school at Lahainaluna, on the Island of Maui, and then at Wailuku, where he remained until he left the Islands in 1888. At Wailuku he had a boys' school for one year, and then took charge of the Female Seminary at that place for eight years, or till 1858, when, as the American Board wished to finish up their work at the Islands, he with others consented to a separation from their service. Thereafter they sought as citizens to help forward the work of civilizing and christianizing the people as best they might while seeking a self-support. In this line of life he practiced surveying, and was also sugar boiler and planter. Scientific studies also engaged his attention as opportunity allowed. He has now returned to the United States, and for the past four years has made his home at Oakland, Cal.

In December, 1836, he married Caroline, daughter of Jonas and Sally Wheeler Hubbard, who was born August 13th, 1814. They have had five sons, as follows :

Edward Hubbard, born February 28th, 1838.

Horatio Bardwell, born December 27th, 1839.

William Hervey, born January 24th, 1843.

James Clark, born June 4th, 1846.

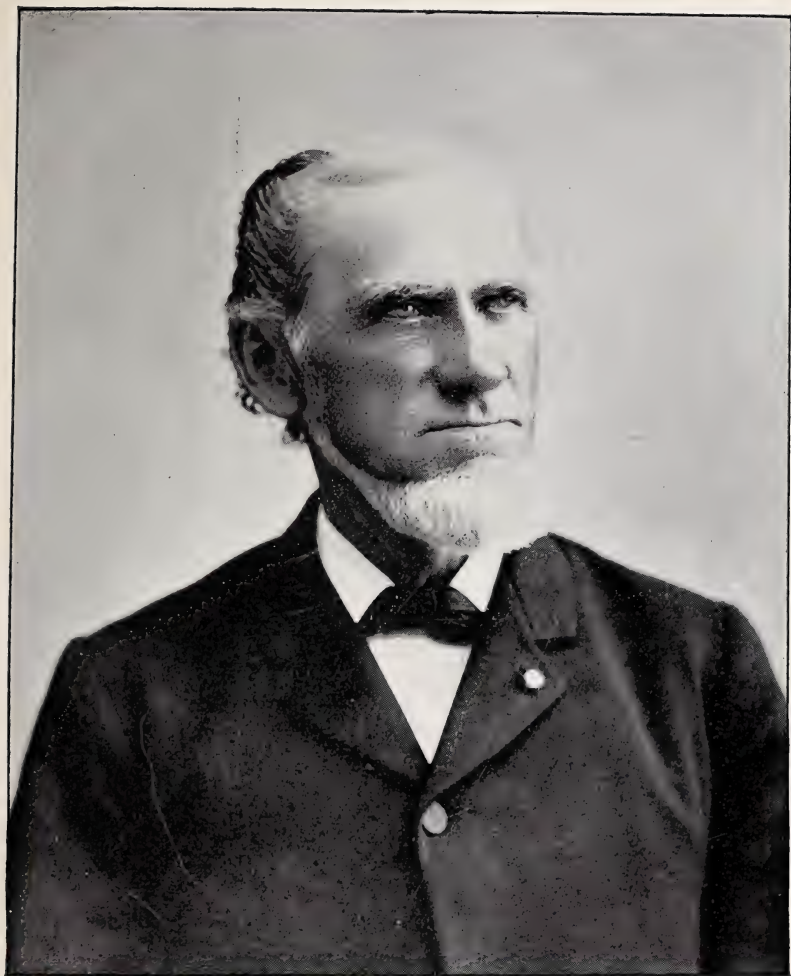
Charles Aldin, born April 17th, 1850.

REV. FREDERIC A. BALCOM.

The Rev. Frederic A. Balcom, son of Madison A. and Rebecca F. Cook Balcom, was born in Worcester, January 26th, 1853. He prepared for college at the high school in Grafton, and was graduated from Williams College in 1878, and from Yale Theological Seminary in 1881. He was ordained at West Hartland, Conn., January 9th, 1882, and has been pastor at West Hartland from May, 1881 to June, 1884; at Holden from June, 1884 to September, 1886; teacher at Dow Academy, Franconia, N. H., from September, 1886 to March, 1887; pastor at North Leominster from July, 1887 to November, 1889; and of the First Congregational Church, Rockland, from November 10th, 1889, to the present time.

ISRAEL MANNING BALL.

Israel Manning Ball is the son of Josiah and Sophia Manning Ball, and grandson of Captain Israel Manning, whose name he worthily bears. Captain Manning, who was born in Lancaster, January 29th, 1756, and died in Holden, January 3d, 1821, was the second son of John and Prudence Houghton Manning, and a descendant in the sixth generation of Mr. William Manning, one of the founders of Cambridge, who came from an ancient family which in the fourth century emigrated from Saxony to England. His great-great-grandfather, William Manning, Jr., was a prominent merchant of Cambridge, one of the selectmen of that town, a messenger of the church to England to secure a pastor, and by appointment of the General Court one of those designated to collect and disburse the monies raised for the first Harvard Hall, and to direct its construction. Through his grandmother, Martha Wheelock Houghton, he was descended from Rev. Ralph Wheelock, who was educated at Cambridge, England, and be-



ISRAEL M. BALL.

came one of the founders of Medfield. He was one of those who, April 19th, 1775, responded to the Lexington alarm, joining the company of his friend, Captain Samuel Sawyer. The service of this company was of short duration, but shortly after it returned to Lancaster, he again enlisted and joined the company of his kinsman, Captain Ephraim Richardson, and had the honor of firing his first gun at the battle of Bunker Hill. How long he remained with this command is unknown, but in April, 1777, he enlisted from Worcester County in the Fifteenth Massachusetts Continental Line, Colonel Biglow, in which command, first in Captain Hodgkin's company and afterwards in the company of the distinguished Captain Howdin, he served as corporal for three years and participated in the noted battles in which his regiment was engaged. A few weeks before his term of service expired, his father died, which rendered it necessary for him on leaving the service to remain at home and assist his widowed mother in the care of her family and estate. On January 1st, 1781, he married Mrs. Lydia Richardson Wright, widow of Abel Wright of Sterling. About 1782 he purchased an estate in Holden where he settled and engaged in farming, in which occupation he continued until the close of his life. In 1819 he received a pension from the United States Government. Captain Manning does not appear to have sought public office, but it is known that he took a deep interest in public affairs, and was recognized as one of the leading citizens, and died at his residence, Manning Hill, now the home of Israel M. Ball, highly respected and deeply mourned. He left surviving him a son, Rev. Abel, and four daughters, Nancy, Pamela, Polly and Sophia. Abel was graduated from Brown University in 1817, studied Theology with the Rev. Dr. Emmons, of Franklin, was ordained November 7th, 1820, and settled as pastor of the Congregational Church in Plymouth, Vt. He was pastor of eleven churches in all, and retired from the ministry about thirty years before his death, which occurred at Goffstown, N. H., December 20th, 1879, in the ninety-second year of his age. He left a widow who has since died, but never had issue. Nancy married a Mr. Red-

ding of Sterling. Pamela married Mr. Ebenezer Neff. Polly married the Rev. Thomas Marshall, a Baptist clergyman, and Sophia married Mr. Josiah Ball, late of Holden. All the daughters died leaving issue, but none of the families remained in Holden, except that of Mr. Ball.

Mr. Josiah Ball was a representative citizen of Holden, where he lived a useful and honorable life. He was the son of Jotham and Anita Cheney Ball, and was born in Holden, February 11, 1784, and died there November 12th, 1867. His father, Samuel, was a native of Concord and a descendant of John Ball of Wiltshire, England, one of the founders of Concord, and believed to be the "Mr. Ball" who came to Massachusetts with Governor Winthrop. Mr. Ball had by his wife, Sophia Manning, to whom he was married in 1813, nine children, as follows :

Josiah, born July 4th, 1814; died October 5th, 1814.

Dr. Jonas, born November 26th, 1815.

Sophia, born January 16th, 1818.

Harriet Wheelock, born January 8th, 1820; died July 29th, 1875.

Dr. Simon, born June 27th, 1822.

Mary Greenwood, born April 15th, 1824.

Israel Manning, born April 3d, 1826.

Melinda Ann, born February 2d, 1828.

Amanda Caroline, born July 12th, 1831.

Mrs. Ball died January 11th, 1837, and he then married Elmira Fales, by whom he had two children :

Jennie, born July 22d, 1839.

Dr. J. Warren, born June 28th, 1841.

Israel Manning Ball was born at Holden, April 3d, 1826. His boyhood was spent at the old homestead on Manning Hill, the house having been built by Captain Manning about one hundred years ago. His early life passed as uneventfully as that of most farmers' boys of his day. At the age of six years

he lost the use of one eye, which was a serious misfortune and great obstacle to him throughout youth and later life.

He received his education at the town schools and at the Nashua Academy, after which he taught school for a number of years with much acceptance in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York. The loss of his eye proved so serious an impediment to a studious or professional life, that he returned to Holden and purchased one of his father's farms, on which was a brick yard.

In connection with farming he engaged for some years in the manufacture of brick, and in 1860 purchased the up-and-down saw mill, situated on Ball Brook, near its entrance into the Quinapoxet river, and there carried on the lumber business until logs and mill gave out. The mill and dam were erected by Mr. Ball's father about 1810.

Upon his father's death, in 1870, Mr. Ball purchased and removed to Manning Hill, where he and his son, Granville M. Ball, now reside, being among the few to occupy the old estate where parents and grandparents have lived and died.

In 1877 Mr. Ball became associated with his son, Granville M. Ball, under the firm name of I. M. Ball & Son, in the manufacture of brooms, and so continued until 1885, when they entered upon their present business of poultry farming, being among the most extensive farmers in this line in the state.

On account of impaired eyesight he was denied a place in the army during the rebellion. He was chosen a member of the town school committee in 1865, and served in that capacity about sixteen years. He has held the office of justice of the peace for over twenty-eight years, having been first commissioned by Governor Andrew in 1864, and since re-commissioned by Governors Rice, Claflin, Robinson and Russell, the present term expiring in 1899. He has since early manhood been a member of the Baptist Church and has held prominent positions in the church and Sabbath School. He is a member of the society of Sons of the American Revolution, and has been a life long member of the Republican party.

He married November 27th, 1850, Mary Dickerman Newton, daughter of Deacon Lemuel Dickerman and Sarah L. Fessenden Newton. They have four children now living :

Ella Danelia, born October 2d, 1851, now the wife of John Hapgood Brooks, Jr., of Worcester.

Granville Manning, born March 2d, 1853, now engaged in business with his father; married Emma C. Raymond of Winchendon, now deceased.

Herbert Eugene, born June 14th, 1855, a prominent banker of Topeka, Kan., and now president of the Investment Company of America; married Willietta Goddard, daughter of Henry Goddard, Esq., of Worcester, a graduate of Wellesley College.

Mary Louisa, born June 19th, 1857, a graduate of Wellesley College, now the wife of Judge Loren L. Morrison of Rockford, Illinois.

Mrs. Ball was one of the first women elected to serve on the town school board, and has been president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union since its organization in Holden. She, like her husband, was in early life a teacher, as have been three of their children. Mr. and Mrs. Ball have both been active in the cause of temperance and education, and were among the first trustees of the Library Association, and have taken a lively interest in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the town, and their hospitable home, "Manning Hill," with its pleasant surroundings and many family gatherings, is a cherished spot in the hearts of kindred and friends who are scattered throughout our land from Maine to California, and from Canada to Central America.



J. WARREN BALL.

JOSIAH WARREN BALL, D. D. S.

Josiah Warren Ball, son of Josiah and Elmira Fales Ball, was born at Holden, Mass., June 28th, 1841, on what is known as Manning Hill. His early education was limited to that which the town schools then afforded. On the breaking out of the war in 1861, he entered the army, serving first with the three months' men in the Holden Rifles, and afterward in the First and Second Massachusetts Cavalry Regiments. For bravery he was promoted to a lieutenancy, and remained in the service until April, 1865, when he was honorably discharged.

Returning home in the autumn of 1865, he studied dentistry for a time with Dr. Tourtellot, one of the leading dentists of Worcester, after which he went to Marion, Alabama, where he continued his studies for three years in the office of his brother, Dr. Simon Ball. He then returned to Boston and was graduated at the Boston Dental College in 1870, being a member of the first class to complete a course at that institution. He is a member of the leading Dental Societies of the State, and president of the Massachusetts Dental Society. He was for several years instructor in Operative Dentistry at the College from which he was graduated. His practice is exclusively high class, and quite extended and lucrative.

Dr. Ball married Miss Elizabeth B. Farrington of Roxbury, and after her decease, in October, 1879, Miss Edna E. Smith of St. Johns, N. B.

HORATIO BARDWELL, D. D.

Horatio Bardwell, D. D., the third pastor of the Congregational Church in Holden, was born in Belchertown, November 3d, 1778. At the age of nineteen he began to study with his brother-in-law, Rev. William Fisher, with whom he remained until his entering Andover Theological Seminary in 1811. June 21st, 1815, he was ordained as a missionary of the Ameri-

can Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, at Newburyport, in company with Messrs. Richards, Poor, Meigs, Warren and Mills, with whom, excepting Mr. Mills, he sailed for India in the ship "Dryad," October 3rd, 1815.

He joined the mission at Bombay, the first established by the Board, and continued his labors there until the climate had so impaired his health that the only hope of saving his life lay in immediate removal. He then left Bombay and returned to this country, arriving here in 1821, having been absent six years. While in India he had been printer as well as missionary. Before retiring from his pastorate in Holden, he entertained serious thoughts of returning to India, which he would not relinquish until a council of skilled physicians reported that such a step would seriously endanger his health and life.

After his partial recovery of health, he was settled, October 22d, 1823, at Holden, as colleague pastor of Rev. Mr. Avery, and became sole pastor in the following March in consequence of the death of his venerable associate. During this pastorate, the church and town experienced powerful revivals of religion. The most noteworthy occurred in 1829 and 1830, which began in the "select school," taught by Mr. David T. Lane, a graduate of Amherst College, who had previously been associated with the famous evangelist, Nettleton, and as a result of which Mr. Bardwell received one hundred and fifty to the church. October 24th, 1833, he was dismissed at his own request from his pastorate in Holden.

Before his formal dismissal from the pastorate, Mr. Bardwell, with the consent of this people, had already entered upon his work among the churches as a representative of the American Board. This work he carried on for three years, traveling widely and preaching with his wonted zeal.

In 1836 he was installed pastor of the church at Oxford, where he continued his labors nearly thirty years, until about two years before his death. He died May 9th, 1865, in consequence of injuries received while endeavoring to save his barn, which had accidentally taken fire.

He married, in 1815, Miss Rachel Forbush of Andover, who survived him. He also left four sons and one daughter, the last named the wife of the Rev. S. J. Austin, for some years his colleague over the church at Oxford.

In 1841 Dartmouth College conferred on him the honorary degree of Master of Arts, and, in 1857, Amherst College the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

“The key to the entire life and character of Dr. Bardwell is found in his consecration to the work of missions. He pursued his studies just at the period when the churches began to be stirred with a new zeal for extending the kingdom of God amongst the heathen. It was an untried experiment; and demanded singleness of purpose, firmness of faith and heroic self-denial. In giving himself then to the Lord in an undertaking so arduous and perilous, he gave himself without reserve to the service of God for life. Whether in India or in his native land, it was his joy to live for Christ. Honored and beloved as a missionary, he was not less honored and beloved as a pastor. He gave full proof of the excellence of his spirit in the strength of his affection, his unceasing watchfulness and in his care for the souls of his people. He was regarded by his brethren, and by all who knew him, as a man singularly unselfish, free from self-complacency, always ready to do, and always ready to yield; never shrinking from service and never obtruding himself; always courteous, affable and genial; always a *man*; a Christian always.”¹

“He was the author of a most charming life of the Rev. Gordon Hall, one of the early missionaries to India, and it is my sincere wish that some one had performed a similar labor of affection and love for him whose noble life and untiring labors have contributed to shape the destinies of the church of Christ in both India and his native land. Many a young man, not only of Holden but elsewhere, owes to him the first impulse which awakened in his soul a desire to preach the gospel.”²

¹ From an obituary notice by Seth Sweetser, D. D.

² From the biographical sketch published in the *Massachusetts Spy* by S. C. Damon, D. D.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BASCOM.

George Washington Bascom was born in the town of Gill, Franklin County, January 21st, 1803. He was one of the youngest of a large family of children. His father died in Boston, March 8th, 1814, of typhus fever, while representing his town in the Legislature. He was thus, at the age of eleven years, left dependent on his own efforts. He learned the trade of machinist, and worked as opportunity offered in different parts of the state. He finally located in Holden, where he met and married Harriet Dryden, the youngest daughter of Artemas Dryden of Holden. After living a short time at Drydenville, now Jefferson, they settled on the old Dryden homestead in the south part of the town, where they lived many years with their children.

George, the eldest, was born May 24th, 1832, and is by occupation a carpenter. He enlisted in the army in response to the call for three months' volunteers, and later went as Captain of Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. He married Marietta, eldest daughter of Joab S. Holt, and still lives in Holden. His family numbers three sons and two daughters :

Nellie Maria, born February 16th, 1866; a teacher.

William Henry, born August 6th, 1868; an insurance agent.

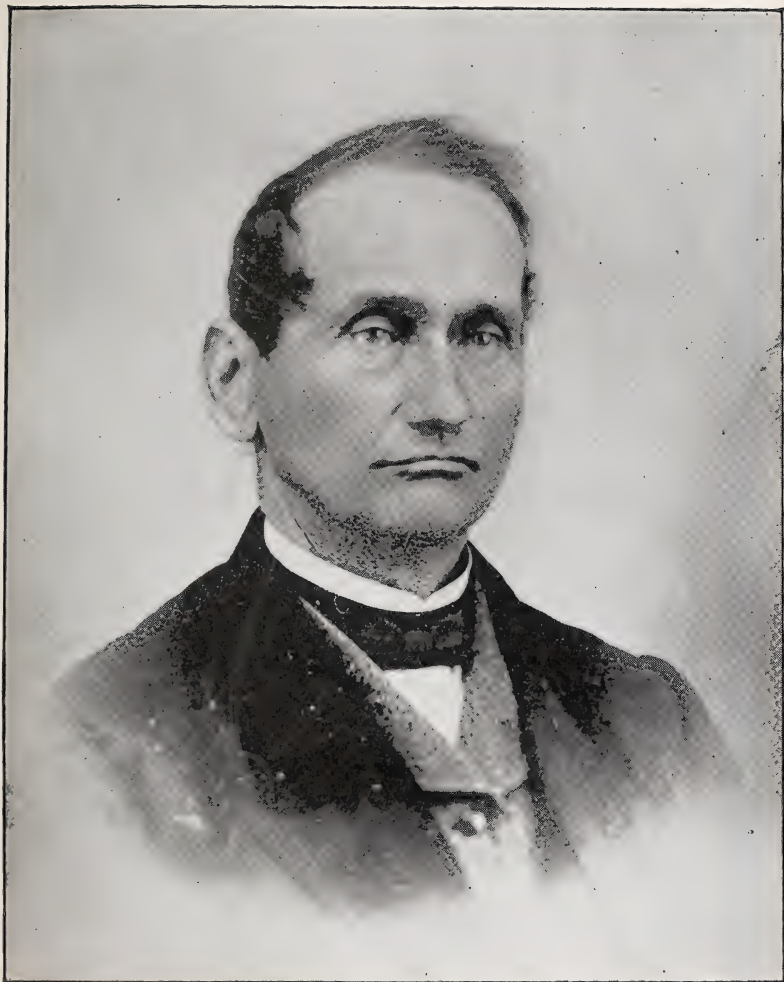
George Edward, born August 27th, 1869.

Clara Kimball, born October 12th, 1875.

Fred Winthrop, born December 19th, 1880.

Artemas Dryden Bascom, the second son, was born August 20th, 1834, and was also among the first to respond to his country's call for volunteers. He is a blacksmith by occupation. He married Emerette F., daughter of Joseph and Emily Clemans Davis, and still resides in town. They have four children :

Harry Chester, born December 21st, 1864; an attorney at law in Fitchburg.



GEORGE W. BASCOM.

Carrie Emily, born June 3d, 1868; a teacher.

Mary Clemans, born June 15th, 1873.

Marion Alice, born July 22d, 1879.

Harriet, the only daughter, died at the age of two years and nine months.

George W. Bascom won a high place in the estimation of his townsmen by his strict integrity, pure life and genial characteristics. He was honored by being twice elected to represent his town in the legislature, in 1851 and 1852. He also served on the board of selectmen and in other offices of trust with earnest fidelity.

He died October 12th, 1885, aged eighty-two years; his wife died the following July, aged eighty-one years.

REV. APPLETON BELKNAP.

The Rev. Appleton Belknap was born in Framingham, September 1st, 1802. After having supplied the pulpit of the Baptist Church in Holden for some months, he was ordained to the pastorate, June 13th, 1832. He continued as pastor only about a year, however, closing his labors October 27th, 1833, with the expressed intent of studying for further preparation for the ministry. From 1835, for thirteen years, he was pastor at East Jaffrey, N. H., and for two years, about 1850, at St. George, Me. In March, 1855, he settled at Lyme Center, N. H., where he remained until 1862, when he removed to Post Mills, in the town of Thetford, Vt., where he preached three years. He then returned, in consequence of failing health, to Lyme, where he spent the rest of his life, supplying occasionally, but never again settled as pastor. He died February 2d, 1877. He was a good man, and proved himself in all his pastorates a faithful minister of Christ Jesus. He was twice married. April 9th, 1832, he married Nancy E. Boynton, of Framingham, who died in 1859. In 1860, he married Susan W. Bliss, of Lyme, N. H., who is still living there. He had one son, Fenelon Belknap, born in Holden, and now living in Barton, Vt.

IRA BROAD.

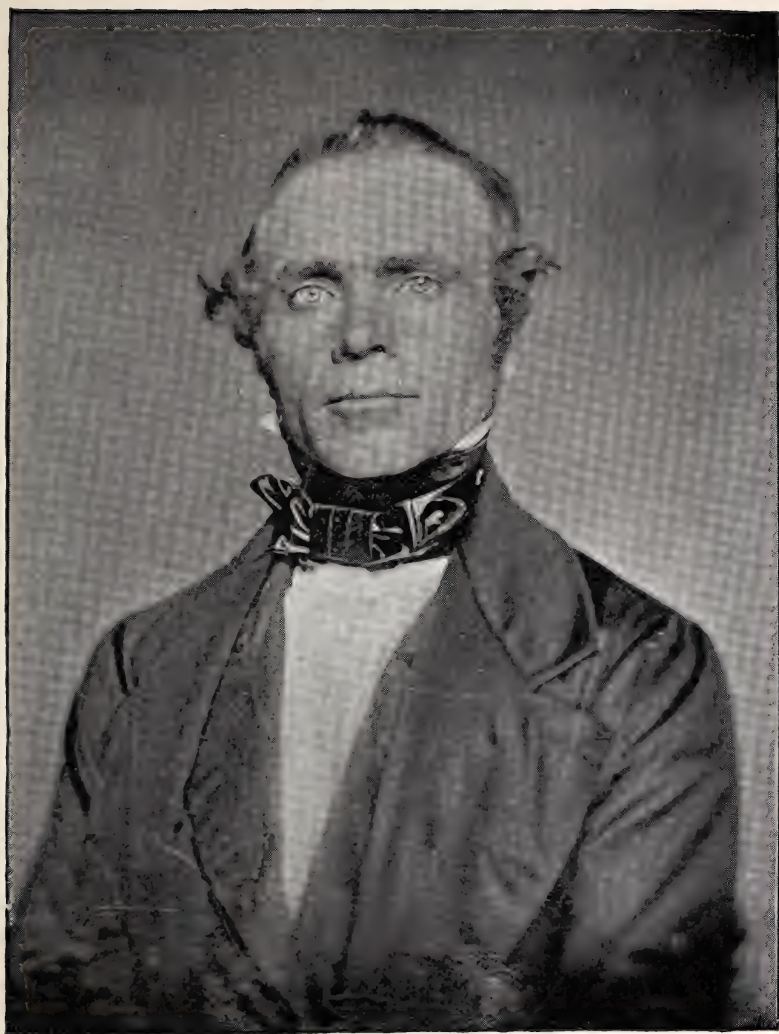
Ira Broad, son of Asa and Prudence Boyden Broad, was born May 13th, 1810; married Lucy J. Foster of Rutland, October 3d, 1838, and died in his native town, July 17th, 1869. He was largely self-educated, the schools of the town and a short term at New Salem Academy being his only aids. He devoted several winters during his early manhood to teaching in New Jersey and in Holden.

His active business life was a combination of various occupations, including teaching, agriculture, the manufacturing of lumber, the contracting for the construction of dams and roads, etc. He was a man of large views and strong intellect, and was characteristically self-reliant. In company with his brother Asa, he built the mills now occupied by W. E. Austin, and also several houses, and he always exhibited a deep interest in improving the town.

He represented Holden in the Legislature in 1850, and for more than twenty-five years filled important offices in the town. Alike in the course of town affairs and in its political history may be marked the influence which he exerted on the character and history of Holden.

REV. JOHN KELLEY CHASE.

The Rev. John Kelley Chase was born in Exeter, N. H., April 22d, 1822. He was a son of Joseph Chase, a descendant of Aquila Chase, who came from England to Newbury about 1625. A brother, James N. Chase, who died in 1862, was also a Baptist minister. Rev. John K. Chase studied at Atkinson Academy, Pembroke Gymnasium and the New Hampton Institution. Baptized May 23d, 1841, he began at once to preach as opportunity offered, received a license in the same year, and was ordained as an evangelist in 1844 at Milton Mills, N. H. His pastorates have been at Lebanon, Me., 1845 and 1846; South



IRA BROAD.

Hampton, N. H., 1846 to 1849 ; Hampden, Me., 1849 to 1854 ; Pittsfield, N. H., 1854 to 1857 ; Rumney, N. H., 1858 to 1865 ; Hydeville, Vt., 1865 to 1867 ; Rockland, 1872 to 1874 ; Holden, 1874 to 1879, and Rowley, 1879 to 1882. Since 1882, continued ill-health has prevented his serving as pastor, and he has resided at South Hampton, N. H.

ISAAC CHENERY, M. D.

“Dr. Isaac Chenery was born at Medfield, 1742, six weeks after the death of his father. Early in life, he entered the service of his country, as a soldier in the French and Indian war, and spent one campaign to the northward upon the lakes. He received a serious injury upon his ankle soon after his return home. He was under the care of a surgeon for nearly four years ; during which period he commenced the study of physic and surgery, without having previously enjoyed the advantages of a good education. Blessed naturally with a vigorous constitution and a strong mind, after a few months study he ventured to offer himself as a practitioner. In 1768, he settled in Holden, and by a faithful, tender and successful care of his patients, soon became extensively known as a physician and surgeon. During the Revolutionary war, he spent one year as a surgeon in the army. His charges as a physician were uniform and moderate. In the social, relative and public duties of life he was beloved and respected. His death occurred October 20th, 1822. He had nearly completed his eightieth year. When death closed his long and laborious life, many tears of sorrow were shed over an affectionate father and friend, by a numerous offspring and acquaintance.”¹

Dr. Chenery married Susannah Pierce, who died a year before him after more than half a century of married life. After her death he wrote the following lines :

¹ To this point, this sketch is taken from the Damon History, pp. 60, 61.

“Removed from all the pains and cares of life,
Here rests a pleasing friend and faithful wife,
Ennobled by the virtues of her mind,
Constant to goodness and to death resigned,
Sure in the silent Sabbath of the grave
To taste that tranquil peace she always gave.”

Their children were :

Thaddeus, born April 27th, 1769.

Zillah born July 12th, 1771.

John, born November 12th, 1779.

Susannah, born February 5th, 1785.

Alony, born January 27th, 1788.

Leonard, born April 27th, 1794.

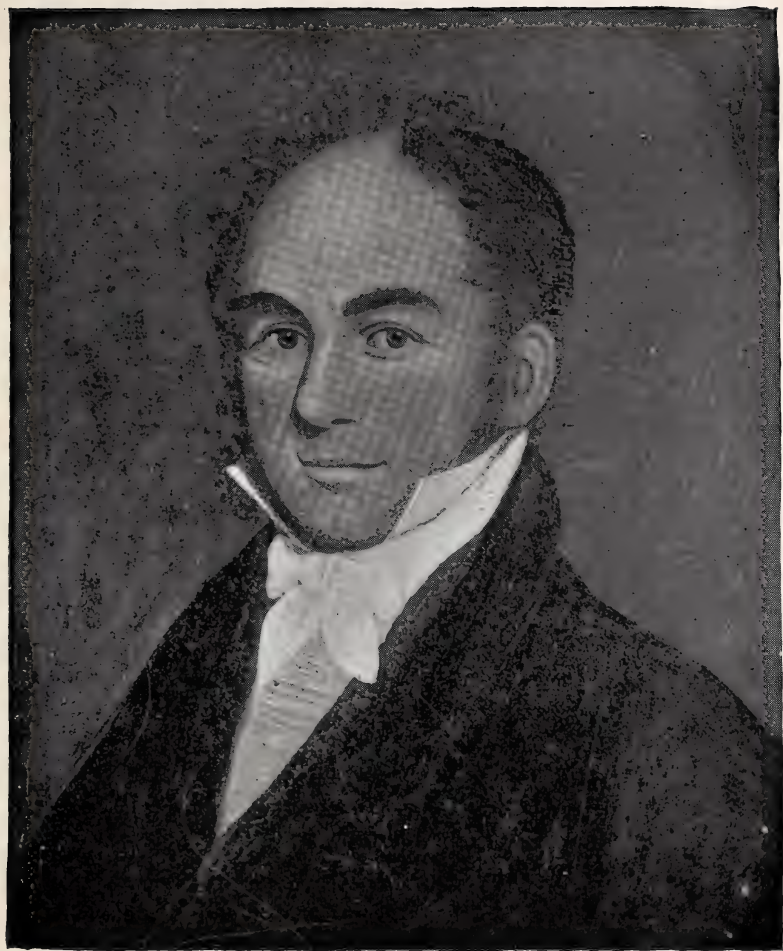
Nathan.

Isaac.

COLONEL SAMUEL DAMON.

The following is an extract from the early records of the town : “June 1779 came to Reside in Holden Samuel Dammon and Abigail Dammon his wife they came from Midway in the County Suffolk.”

These were the father and mother of the subject of this sketch, and this removal to Holden was so near the date of their marriage as to be almost their wedding journey. They made the trip from Medway on horseback, Madam “Dammon” and a negro servant riding on the same horse, while their household goods followed in an ox cart, requiring two days for the passage. Mr. Damon had learned the trade of cabinet-maker in Medway, as appears by old-time specimens of his handiwork still treasured among his descendants. Their first dwelling in Holden was one mile east of the center village on Bunker Hill, so-called, where still may be seen remnants of the stone fireplace and chimney. Here their children were born. Subsequently, and before their establishment in the village home-stead, they lived for a time in the yellow house, long since removed, a half-mile west of the village on the premises now known as the John Richardson place.



COL. SAMUEL DAMON.

The name Damon, as the word indicates, is doubtless taken from Greek myth or story, and is found as a family name in half the countries of Europe. The spelling of the word, however, presents a curious jumble; here are some of the varieties: Daman, Damman, Damond, Dammant, Daming, Demmon, Daymond. In the list of passengers in the ship "Elizabeth Ann", landing in New England in 1635, is "Jane Dammand, aged 9"; when she married John Plimpton in 1644, the record makes her "Jane Dammin." The Holden family traces its lineage six generations back from the first named Samuel, through Deacon Samuel and Joseph of Dedham, to Deacon John Damon, who emigrated from Reading, England to Reading, Massachusetts, in 1633. It was representative Puritan stock, energetic, devout and thrifty. All through colonial days, its members frequently appear with the important titles of deacon or selectman or captain; for they were good Indian fighters when that was the business in hand. In this same year, 1779, this Samuel of Dedham gave to the successive oldest Deacons of that place, one thousand dollars, the interest to be devoted forever to provide Bibles for the poor, town paupers excepted. It is said that fund, after more than a hundred years, is still doing its good work—thanks and honor to an excellent series of "oldest Deacons," the guardians of the fund, as well as to the founder. In interesting contrast with the foregoing, and as showing seventeenth century thrift in addition to benevolence, in the family character, there must be quoted a single line from the earlier records of Reading, West Parish: "Cæsar, a clever man, was the slave of Joseph Damon."

The west forty feet of the Damon dwelling in Holden village is one hundred years old, and for almost that period has been occupied continuously by members of that family. On this very site, moreover, in still earlier days, stood "that Noted House in said Town Known by the Name of the Old Public Meeting House;" and this quotation is from a posted notice dated "March ye 16 1791," announcing that the building "is to be Sold at Public Auction on the last Wednesday of this Instant at the House of Lem'l Abbot." The sale and removal of the Meeting

House made way for the original dwelling which immediately followed. Contiguous to this, on the east, was erected a small low building, used as a store, both store and dwelling being first occupied by one Miles, who sold to Samuel Damon, senior, about the year 1800. Some years later, his son, Samuel, built the present store extension, with its ambitious little portico of Doric columns in the style of the period. Just here, growing out of the stone foundations, as if a shoot from the roots of the house, is the veteran old woodbine, still vigorous, though planted in 1835. The fine elm tree, near the west side door, was set out by Charles L. Knowlton, the husband of Alony Damon, in 1836, the birth year of their first child, Caroline. The trunk was torn in twain by an ice storm in 1861, one-half drooping to the ground, but the parts were tenderly put in place and bound by an iron bolt with success that the iron is now half buried in living wood. For a full century, with the exception of two years, there has been kept here a country store; moreover, for a large portion of this time some member of the family has held town office, and the business of the office conducted chiefly here, Major Isaac Damon, of the third generation of Damon occupants, having himself been Town Clerk twenty-two years, and one of the Assessors twenty-eight years. This ancient edifice, therefore, with the ground thereunder, counting from very early days when the inhabitants gathered to worship here, has seen and touched so much of the life of the town's people, that, for this reason, if no other, it is worthy of mention in these annals.

Colonel Samuel Damon, born in 1786, began his business career at sixteen in his father's store, where his unusual capacity was soon made manifest. He continued in charge of this store forty-five years. In the course of a few years, he also became sole or part proprietor of stores in the adjacent towns of Rutland, Paxton and South Leicester, meantime planning and conducting extensive manufactories. In 1828, in company with his nephew, Jason Goulding, he built the cotton factory in Phillipston. In 1831, he erected the mill at Quinapoxet. Later he became owner of mills at North Woods, Drydenville, Daw-



SAMUEL C. DAMON, D. D.

sonville, North Oxford and the Trowbridge mill at Worcester, most of which manufactories he operated many years, and owned at the time of his death in 1851. He was also an extensive dealer in real estate, the Registry at Worcester showing more than three hundred conveyances by him. He was always prominent in the affairs of the town, having filled at different times most of its important offices, including that of Treasurer for thirteen years, and was elected four times to the Legislature. To this array of employments and activities, he added further that of bank director and the colonelcy of a cavalry regiment. In all these positions of responsibility, whether in the prosecution of his business or in places of trust or public office, he proved himself a man of rare force, broad-minded, sagacious and honorable.

He married, July 4th, 1810, Alony Chenery, daughter of Dr. Isaac Chenery. To them were born nine children, of whom only two survive, the second son, Isaac, and the youngest daughter, Susan, Mrs. Gale. A sketch of the eldest son, Samuel C., the late Rev. Dr. Damon of the Hawaiian Islands, follows. In continuance of the honored line of Samuels, is Dr. Damon's son Samuel, recently Minister of Finance in that island kingdom, and the latter's son Samuel, now a Freshman in Yale College.

SAMUEL CHENERY DAMON, D. D.

Samuel Chenery Damon, the eldest son of Samuel and Alony Chenery Damon, was born in Holden, February 15th, 1815. He was graduated from Amherst College in 1836; studied at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1838 and 1839, and was graduated from Andover Theological Seminary in 1841. Before entering on his theological studies, he was for a year principal of the academy at Salisbury, Conn.; and during these studies, he acted as private tutor in a family in Burlington, N. J. While thus engaged in teaching, very flattering offers were made to him, accompanied by urgent appeals of friends, to induce him

to devote his life to business, but he remained unshaken and true to his convictions of duty.

While pursuing his theological studies, it was his purpose to go as a missionary to India, and he even began the study of the Tamil language. He was ordained September 15th, 1841, and was preparing to carry out this long cherished purpose, when a most urgent call came from the Sandwich Islands for a seaman's chaplain at the port of Honolulu. After careful and prayerful consideration, Mr. Damon surrendered his former plans, and accepted this position. He sailed from New York, March 10th, 1842, via Valparaiso and Callao, and after a voyage of seven months' duration, reached Honolulu October 19th, 1842.¹

Mr. Damon's work at Honolulu was carried forward under the auspices of the American Seaman's Friend Society. At the time that he entered on his work, from one hundred to one hundred and fifty whale ships visited the port of Honolulu every year. Dr. Damon's own statement is as follows: "From 1842 to 1867, at the lowest estimate, six thousand seamen annually visited this port. During these twenty-five years, my labors were abundant, and sometimes beyond my strength." What his labors were cannot be fully described. It was his practice to visit all these ships, to scatter Bibles, Testaments and tracts, and to converse personally with as many of the sailors as possible. For forty-two years, he was pastor of the Bethel Church, and preached there every Sunday, not only to sailors, but also to merchants, sea captains and many others, who were drawn to this well-known place of worship.

Aside from his duties as a seaman's chaplain, Dr. Damon performed many other important services. Being an acceptable speaker, he was often called upon to give addresses on public occasions, and he held a prominent position in missionary associations, as well as in all institutions organized on the Hawaiian Islands for charity and education. He was not only an able speaker, but also a ready writer. Only three months after his arrival at Honolulu, he began the publication of a

¹A manuscript note, in the handwriting of Dr. Damon, gives the date as "Oct. 27."

monthly journal, which he called "The Friend." This periodical took the place, in some respects, of a general newspaper, but, possessing both high literary merit, and a decidedly religious character as well, it became not only a channel of communication for great multitudes on both land and sea, but also an educating and elevating agency for all that part of the world.

The travels, acquaintance and influence of Dr. Damon were very extensive. In 1849 he visited Oregon and California. In 1851 he visited the United States, coming by the way of the Isthmus of Panama, returning to the Sandwich Islands in 1852. In 1861 he made a tour of the Micronesian Islands on the "Morning Star." In 1869 he again visited the United States, and then traveled through England, Palestine, Egypt and Greece, returning to Honolulu in 1870. In 1876 he attended the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, also revisiting his New England home and friends. In 1880 he came once more to the United States, and then made an extended European tour, visiting England, Scotland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France. It is said that he also visited China and Japan. In all these years he also carried on an extensive correspondence with friends and acquaintances all over the world.

He married, October 6th, 1841, Julia Sherman Mills of Natick. They had five sons :

Samuel Mills, born July 9th, 1843 ; died June 2d, 1844.

Samuel Mills, born March 13th, 1845.

Edward Chenery, born May 21st, 1848.

Francis Williams, born December 10th, 1852.

William Frederick, born January 11th, 1857 ; died October 23d, 1879.

He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from his alma mater, Amherst College, in 1867. In 1869 he became a member of the American Antiquarian Society, and in 1879 a corresponding member of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society.

While still a student at Andover, he was invited by his townsmen to give the address at the celebration of the centen-

nial anniversary of the town. This address was published at the request of the committee of arrangements, together with notes and an appendix, which increased the amount of matter fourfold. During his visit to the United States in 1876, he gathered considerable matter for a continuation of the history down to that time, which, however, he was never able to prepare.

His death occurred February 7th, 1885, and resulted from inflammation of the brain. On the afternoon of the next day, Sunday, his funeral and burial were attended by a great throng of sorrowing friends, including the king and his ministers.

"He was one of nature's noblemen,—of fine personal appearance,—always pleasant, cheerful and happy,—always laboring to make others happy here and hereafter,—a truly model Christian man . . . and it may justly be said that the world was made better by his having lived in it."¹

REV. GEORGE DARLING.

The Rev. George Darling was born October 24th, 1821, in the town of Sterling, but the family removed to Holden when he was an infant only six months old. He united with the Congregational Church in Holden when about fifteen years old. In the fall of 1840 he went to West Troy, N. Y., and taught school there and in that region. He was graduated from Union College in 1846, and from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1849. He was ordained at Hamilton, Ohio, July 12th, 1850, and was pastor of the Presbyterian Church in that place for about two years. Leaving the West after a severe sickness, he was called, in the fall of 1852, to the pastorate the Appleton Street, now the Eliot, Church in Lowell, where he remained between two and three years. Since then his pastorates have been at Hudson, Ohio, for fifteen years; Waupun, Wis., for sixteen years, and Oconomowoc, Wis., for two years.

¹ Quoted from the remarks of Nathan Allen, M. D., at the dedication of the Damon Memorial, from which much assistance has been derived in the preparation of this sketch.



REV. ELNATHAN DAVIS.

An elder brother of the above, Samuel D. Darling, having been graduated from Williams College in 1836, studied theology at Gilmanton, N. H.; was pastor at Yarmouth, South Royalston and Orange; in 1850 removed to Oakfield, Wis., and labored there as a home missionary until his sudden death in 1873, at the age of sixty-six years.

REV. ELNATHAN DAVIS.

The Rev. Elnathan Davis, son of Ethan and Sarah Hubbard Davis, was born at Holden, August 19th, 1807. He was graduated from Williams College in 1834, and from East Windsor, now Hartford, Theological Seminary in 1836. He was ordained as a Congregational minister at Holden in November of that year, being at the time under appointment as a missionary of the American Board to South Africa. A difference of opinion with the officers of the Board upon the matter of infant baptism caused him to resign this appointment. He was in the service of the American Seaman's Friend Society for some months, while it was contemplated to establish a chaplaincy of the society at Hamburg, Germany. The financial reverses of 1837 prevented, and in 1839 he engaged in self-supporting home missionary work in northern Indiana and southern Michigan, to which the tide of emigration from the east was just setting. While visiting New England in 1845, he began to labor for the American Peace Society. In 1846 he was installed as pastor of the Congregational Church at Ashburnham. He was a delegate to the World's Peace Congress at Paris in 1849. In 1850 he resigned his Ashburnham pastorate to take the place of Corresponding Secretary of the Peace Society. In presenting its cause, he visited Fitchburg, and became interested in the Trinitarian Church, an organization which owed its formation to the anti-slavery and temperance principles of its members, and upon their invitation he took charge of the society and filled its pulpit for upwards of fourteen years, from 1851 to 1865. The latter part of this time, and for years later, he labored in behalf of

the American Missionary Association, then beginning its work in the southern states, of which body he became District Secretary for New England. He was elected to the Legislature from the Fitchburg district in 1869, and an acquaintance formed in the legislative chamber led to his preaching at Auburn, where he was pastor about ten years, until 1879. Here he continued to reside until, after a painful, lingering illness, borne with the same cheerful spirit which always shone in his daily life, he "entered into rest" April 9th, 1881.

He was buried at Holden, and above his grave is the simple inscription, "For forty-five years a minister of the gospel."

"Mr. Davis was a man of popular gifts, whether in the pulpit, upon the platform, or in the more private walks of life. He possessed a native grace of manner, which, combined with his liberal culture and a genial Christian spirit and a genuine love for his fellow man, made him a man of influence, whether in his public address or in his private life. He was popular without seeking popularity. As a preacher, he was calm and usually unimpassioned in his utterance, presenting the great truths of the gospel in an earnest, dignified and persuasive manner. And yet in rebuking evil and exposing iniquity, he was never lacking in true moral courage. He did not fear to lift up his voice in public condemnation of oppression and wrong, even when public sentiment was against him. The great duties of love toward God and benevolence toward man, he not only enjoined upon others, but practiced in his own life.

"As a pastor, he had great influence among his people, to whom he warmly attached himself by a thorough acquaintance, and a loving interest in their behalf. He was a warm friend of the children, and thoroughly interested in the welfare of the young. He had stirring and earnest words for the young men. He moulded them. He inspired them with noble and manly sentiments. Thoroughly manly and Christian himself, he left his impress upon them who for any considerable time had come under his influence.

.....
"He was active in the work of social and moral reform, and in this sphere he accomplished some of the best work of his life. He was by nature a reformer. He believed in righting the social wrongs of the community, and did what he could toward this result. In him the cause of the oppressed and the rights of 'God's poor' had an

earnest and eloquent advocate. And when he lifted up his voice, as he so often did, in condemnation of the wrongs of his fellow men, it was a voice that gave no uncertain sound. He was earnest and outspoken in his condemnation of American slavery and of the great evil of intemperance, and he did not think the Sabbath day or the Christian pulpit too sacred to be employed in exposing these wrongs. And so uniformly kind and Christian was his spirit that he did much to disarm opposition, and win for himself the confidence and respect of those whose opinions he opposed."¹

Mr. Davis was the author of many hymns and short poems of much literary merit. Among others he wrote a hymn for the opening of the new cemetery at Holden, and the following

RESPONSE TO THE HYMN FOR THE OPENING OF THE HOLDEN
CEMETERY.

My massive gate is opened wide,
Faint toilers in a world of sin —
Turn from life's broad highway aside ;
Lay off its burdens — enter in !

Welcome, ye living ! Seek to spend
Seasons of wise reflection here !
My lessons are of life's great end —
Of the stern future's hope and fear !

Learn here the emptiness of earth,
The folly of all human trust,
The value of a heavenly birth —
When the worn frame shall sleep in dust !

So, as from out the homes of men,
Life's journey o'er — its labors done,
Ye come to my still haunts again,
Borne by the living, — one by one —

Shall faith in Jesus, strong to save,
Reveal a brighter world than this,
And my dark gateway to the grave
Shine like the portal into bliss.

¹ From an obituary notice written by a minister who, in his youth, was a member of Mr. Davis' parish.

Mr. Davis married, in 1836, Teresa, daughter of Paul Davis of Holden. She died in 1841. In 1843 he married Mary Avery, daughter of Aaron White of Boylston, and granddaughter of Rev. Joseph Avery of Holden. She is still living. Three sons also survive him, one by the first and two by the second marriage. His children were :

Theodore E., born June 19th, 1838.

Thomas W., born November 1st, 1844.

Francis G., born March 9th, 1851.

Helen Teresa, died in infancy.

ETHAN DAVIS, SENIOR.

Ethan Davis, Senior, commonly known in his mature years as 'Squire Ethan, was the youngest son of Captain James Davis, and was born in Holden, February 29th, 1766. Like his father, he was an extensive land owner. He seems to have been born with a propensity for trading in real estate, in live stock, or in anything in which he could indulge his taste for speculation. His dealings in cattle often occasioned remarks and now and then were the basis of jokes. It is related that in his younger days he and some of his friends, presumably at the tavern or store, were trying to chaff Dr. Thaddeus Chenery, who was then beginning to practice in town, and Mr. Davis, for fun, complained of not feeling well and asked the doctor to examine him. The doctor did so, and informed him he had a bad attack of farrow-cow fever. In conformity with the custom of those days, Mr. Davis ordered drinks for the party. He was a temperate man, however, and not much given to sports of any kind, but could, on occasion, give and take a joke with much relish. It may be said that the relish for a good joke was not, by any means, diminished by transmission to his children. Shortly after his first marriage, his father-in-law called on him and tendered him a little good ad-



ETHAN DAVIS.

vice, counselling him not to "go too fast," but to "begin as he could hold out." It being time for the eleven o'clock toddy, the son-in-law brought the old gentleman a mug of water, remarking that he was "beginning as he could hold out." After getting in his joke he entertained his relative in the usual way.

About the year 1829 Mr. Davis was an active mover in forming the first temperance society of Holden, in conjunction with the Rev. Mr. Bardwell, and thereafter, and probably for a long time before, was a total abstainer from intoxicating drinks.

Mr. Davis possessed the confidence of his townsmen to a great degree. He was a selectman for thirteen consecutive years; assessor three years; treasurer of the town twenty-one years, and represented the town in the legislature three years, in 1817, 1821 and 1826. He was appointed a justice of the peace in 1817.

By good management he accumulated a large property, and gave his large family of children all the education which they desired, besides giving them all needed assistance in starting in life. He was quite rigid in business affairs, but tried to render to all their just dues. The descendant of a woman whose money was in his hands says that, if for any reason the interest became overdue, he always paid interest on interest. His charities were considerable. Following the example of his father, who had left a small legacy to the church, he also left one to it, besides one to the town and one to the Seaman's Friend Society.

Though inclined to austerity, he was never unkind, and was an excellent neighbor, a steadfast friend, and a very kind husband and father.

For many years last previous to his death he occupied the estate just south of the common, later owned by his sons, and now in possession of Mr. Levi Howe.

Mr. Davis, though of a very speculative turn, was much less a rover than most of the members of this branch of Dolor Davis' family. Dolor was very restless, moving eight or nine times, and nearly always acquiring real estate. Many

of his descendants down to the last generation have equaled his record. A granddaughter of Ethan Davis, senior, yet living and in the prime of life, several years ago went to one of the territories alone, and took up a quarter section of prairie land, and, far from friends, with only one neighbor, and that one more than a mile away, lived there alone for eight months in order to secure her title. Having accomplished that, and being very much afraid of her only neighbor, who was, in her opinion, a barbarian, she made haste to get back among civilized people. Though she confesses that one experiment of the kind is sufficient, she is still given to travel and looking about the country.

Of the numerous descendants of 'Squire Ethan Davis not one now remains in Holden, the last grandchild and his children having removed a few months since.

He was twice married. His first wife, and the mother of his children, was Sarah, daughter of Elisha Hubbard, and sister of Samuel W. and Deacon Silas M. Hubbard. They were married May 27th, 1792, and she died December 24th, 1818, aged forty-eight years. August 24th, 1819, he was married to Zillah, widow of Lemuel Abbott, and sister of Dr. Thaddeus Chenery and of the wife of Colonel Samuel Damon. No children were born of this marriage. His death, April 29th, 1837, was the result of an accident. His widow died March 8th, 1843. His children were :

Nancy, born June 14th, 1793; married to Deacon Isaac Fisk, April 11th, 1812; died in Holden, August 8th, 1813. Mr. Fisk died at his missionary post, Elliot, Miss., September 19th, 1820.

Thomas Jones, born November 14th, 1794; married to Silence Clapp, who was a sister of Millea, wife of Paul Davis, Jr., April 18th, 1819. Both died in Holden in November, 1857. They had several children, only one of whom survived the parents, Mrs. Isabella G. Clarke, who has been a missionary in Turkey since 1859.

Dennis, born September 24th, 1796; died September 26th, 1863. He was twice married; first, August 14th, 1823, to Mary, eldest daughter of Major Paul Davis, who died July 21st, 1826, leaving one child who died three days later, and then, April 26th, 1827, to Lucy C., a younger sister of his first wife, who died March 21st, 1877. They had two sons and two daughters; one daughter died in 1854, the other in 1855. Both sons are yet living. It is worthy of notice that by these marriages the blood of Dolor Davis, flowing through the two lines of Simon and Samuel, was again united in the persons of the children of Dennis and his wives, he having descended from Simon, they from Samuel.¹ This is also true of the children of Rev. Elnathan and Teresa Davis, he being a brother of Dennis and she a sister of Mary and Lucy. The wife of Thomas Jones, an elder brother, was aunt of his brothers' wives.

Sarah, born January 13th, 1799, married to Jones Estabrook, and died in Holden, September 22d, 1836. He survived her but one month. They had several children, of whom only one is now living, Miss Ellen A. Estabrook, of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Alona, born January 10th, 1801, married to Rev. Preston Cummings, February 1st, 1826. Both died in Holden a few years since. They had two sons, both of whom died before their parents.

Dorinda, born January 25th, 1803, died April 8th, 1807.

Hannah, born February 26th, 1805, married November 17th, 1834, to Rev. Aldin Grout, and sailed for South Africa December 3d of same year, to engage in missionary work. She died at Bethelsdorp, South Africa, February 24th, 1836, leaving an infant daughter, Oriana, who afterward married Rev. William Ireland, missionary to South Africa. He has since died, but she is still living there.

¹ See Genealogical Table of the Davis family, p. 60.

Elnathan, a notice of whom precedes this.

Relief, born March 25th, 1810, married Rev. John Keep, November 8th, 1836, died December 20th, 1880, in Illinois. He died there a few years before her. They had two daughters, both still living, in Madison, Wis.

Ethan, Jr., a notice of whom will follow this.

ETHAN DAVIS, JUNIOR.

Ethan Davis, born in Holden, May 27th, 1812, in what is now known as Mount Pleasant House, was the son of "Squire Ethan" and Sarah Hubbard Davis, and was the youngest of their ten children.

His life, till early manhood, was spent on his father's farm. His earliest business venture, as his own man, so far as we know, was as partner in a manufacturing company, entering into it by his father's advice. It resulted in failure, but not until after the death of his father. It was indicative of the character of the future man, that, although not legally bound to do so, he assumed and eventually paid in full all claims against the company, being obliged to use, in so doing, a sum equal to the entire amount bequeathed to him by his father. From that time on, his business life was varied, including store-keeping, farming, dealing in real-estate, etc.

Nominally a farmer and store-keeper, yet having no real love for either, a large part of his life, after reaching manhood, was passed in the execution of trusts of various sorts for which he was fitted by early training, and a sturdily honest nature which found in this way its recognition.

Mentally adapted to the practice of law, yet feeling debarred from following a profession by limited early education, he found an outlet for thoughtful and earnest effort by interesting himself in a large-minded way in public affairs. No movement for the public good, either in town, state or nation, failed to find in him an efficient and earnest worker with mind, hands and



ETHAN DAVIS.

means. One of the earliest Abolitionists, when to be known as such required more of courage than the present generation can realize, his house was a prominent station on the underground railroad of those days, and he was active, as always indeed, in helping men toward freedom and true manhood.

One of the first to adopt and practice total abstinence, he kept in the front rank of all movements in that direction, ready whenever the need arose, to assume responsibility for action in support of the principles he championed.

Space will not permit an enumeration of all the forms which his activities assumed. All movements for the good of the young found in him a warm friend and efficient helper.

The Band of Hope, the local lodge of Good Templars, the Grange, of which he was a charter member, the Farmers' and Mechanics' Club, of which he was one of the founders, and the Cemetery Corporation, of which he was for many years the president, will serve as sufficient illustration of the way in which he entered into public affairs.

Never seeking office for himself, he still took a deep interest in politics, keeping step with the advance, and passing naturally from Whig to Free Soiler, and thence to Republicanism.

During the War for the Union, and in the years succeeding, he was an ardent supporter of the Government, and held office under it for several years as Postmaster and United States Assessor.

In his religious life, trained in the Calvinistic school of thought, in early days somewhat severe, he held throughout his life to what he considered the vital elements of Christian faith, yet was in full sympathy with the progressive Christian thought of his time, and in his later days took the greatest interest in all the signs of the times, which pointed to the breaking down of the walls of sectarian thought, and the building up of a common Christian life.

His life motto, the oftenest quoted by him of all Scripture, was "Trust in the Lord and do good ; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed," a motto which those who knew him best, believe that he exemplified in his daily life.

He was married at the age of twenty-three to Mary Ann Waters, daughter of Willard and Huldah P. Waters, of Woodstock, Conn., and found in her during their wedded life of over forty-nine years a most efficient helpmeet, warmly interested in all that concerned an exemplary home life and a beneficent influence in the community.

Considering her, to use his own words, "the inspirer of his best deeds," any account of his life, which did not recognize her helpful presence and sympathy, would indeed be incomplete and fail to fully account for any good influence which he may have exerted in the community. Their children were:

Aldin Grout, born February 25th, 1836; in the Commissions Department, Travellers Insurance Company, Hartford, Conn.

Edward Jones, born February 10th, 1838; in charge of a department with the Simonds Manufacturing Company, Fitchburg.

Mary Hannah, born November 19th, 1840; died July 8th, 1843.

Erskine Ethan, born September 24th, 1843; died July 30th, 1845.

Mary Ellen, born December 25th, 1847; in charge of a department at the Mt. Hermon School for Boys, Mt. Hermon, for some years before her death, which occurred December 11th, 1892.

Solon Periander, born August 6th, 1850; Supervisor of Drawing in public schools, Hartford, Conn.

Charles Ethan, born August 3d, 1854; chief engineer, Webster Manufacturing Company, Chicago, Ill.

He died April 9th, 1888, at the age of seventy-six years, surviving his wife for a period of less than three years, and their graves are now in the rural cemetery of his native town, within whose precincts he had spent, with but four years' exception, his long life, and whose welfare held to the last a large share in his interest and thought.

CAPTAIN JAMES DAVIS.

Since Lieutenant Simon Davis, the son of Samuel, and grandson of Dolor Davis, settled in or near Holden, about the year 1722, the inhabitants of the town, who have borne the name of Davis, and those of their race who, by reason of inter-marriages, have borne other names, have been numerous and prominent. Some have acquired considerable wealth, many have held office in the town, and many have been prominent in religious and social matters. All are descendants of Dolor Davis through his two younger sons, Simon and Samuel. Dolor came from Kent, England, in the year 1634, in company with his wife's brother, Major Simon Willard, who was, later, active and prominent in the Indian wars hereabout. It is supposed that Simon and Samuel were born in Cambridge, then called "the New Towne." Simon Davis, uncle of the Lieutenant Simon mentioned above, was also a lieutenant, and took a part in the wars, and at the battle at Brookfield in 1675 succeeded to the command of the troops, Captain Wheeler having been wounded.

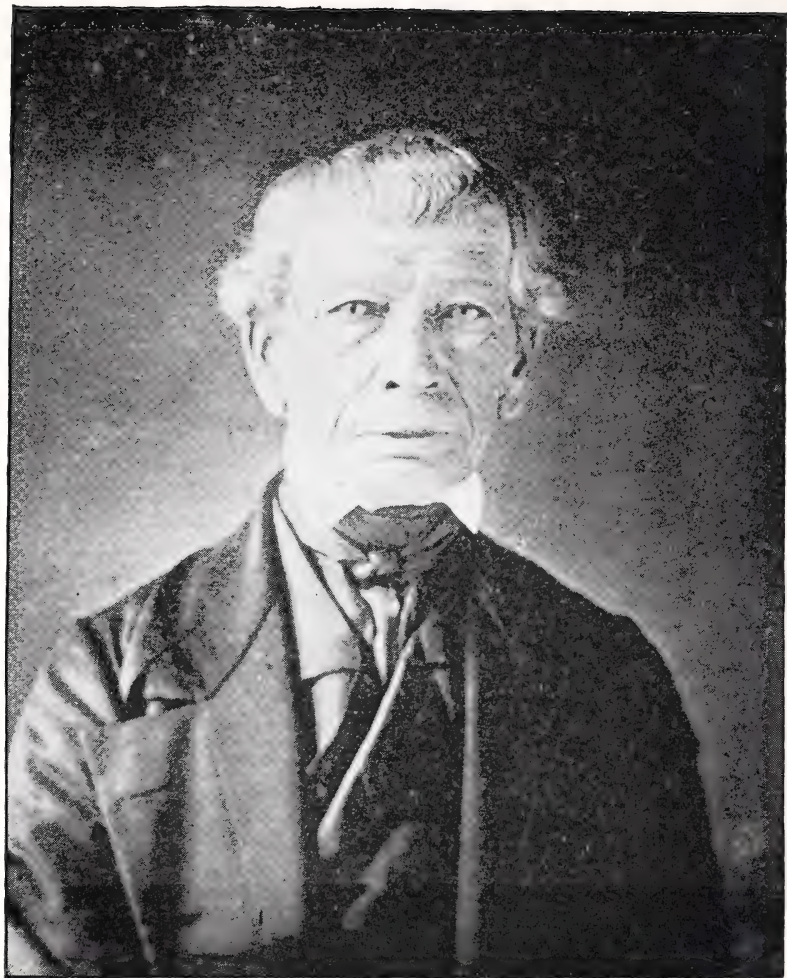
Captain James Davis, a great-grandson of this Lieutenant Simon, was born in Concord, in September, 1734. It is supposed that he came to Holden as early as 1760, settled on Champlain Hill, just west of where Stephen N. Hubbard now lives, and remained there until his death, September 15th, 1821. Mary, his wife and the mother of his children, died June 26th, 1799. During his active life, he was a leading man in town affairs. Just before and during the Revolution he was a selectman for nine years. He was assessor nine years, and treasurer of the town eight years. He was one of the committee who, in 1772, drew up the resolutions protesting against the tyranny of the British ministry. He was representative from Holden to "The Great and General Court" for the first two years after Independence was declared, 1776 and 1777. For some part, and probably a large part of his life, he was active in church affairs. Captain Davis was an active

man of business, and acquired a handsome property, being an extensive land owner. He was a man of strict integrity, and was much respected and trusted by his fellow citizens.

By his wife, Mary, he had five sons and five daughters. Two of his sons, James, Jr., and Edmund, served with the Massachusetts troops during some part, at least, of the war for Independence. The other sons were Jonas, Elnathan and Ethan. Edmund was the father of the late Mrs. David Clapp. Elnathan was the father of the late Dr. David Davis, Gardner Davis and Lucy, who was married to Simon Black, and later to Dea. Silas Flagg. The last named had a large family, of whom Samuel, George W. and Charles E. Black, Hannah, widow of John Boyden, and Lucy, wife of Charles H. Harvey, are still living. James D. Black, recently deceased, was her son. The daughters of Captain James Davis were Sally, who married Levi Bartlett of Rutland, grandfather of the present proprietor of the Muschopauge House; Patty, who married Dana Frost; Hannah, who died young and unmarried; Relief, who married Jonathan Davis, and is thought to be the ancestress of Mr. Davis, of the well known firm of Hallett & Davis, piano manufacturers of Boston, and Nancy, who married a Heywood, one of whose daughters was the wife of the late John Estabrook of Holden. The only descendants of Captain James Davis, still remaining in Holden, are Mrs. Sumner Chamberlain and her children, the children and grandchildren of the late James D. Black, and Charles E. Black and daughter.

REV. JOSEPH DAVIS.

Rev. Joseph Davis, the first pastor of the town of Holden, was born July 16th, 1720, in Concord, from which town his father, Lieutenant Simon Davis, came to be one of the first settlers here. The son was graduated from Harvard College in 1740, and after some study of theology, was invited to the pastorate at Holden. He was ordained December 22d, 1742, at



MAJOR PAUL DAVIS.

the same time that the church was organized. His only work in life was done in connection with the Holden church and people. He officiated as pastor until 1773, when, at his own request, he was dismissed from the pastorate. He continued, however, to reside in Holden until his death, March 4th, 1799, and on January 2d, 1793, he preached a semi-centennial sermon, which was printed. But little remains to this day which may serve as a basis for characterizing him. His epitaph in the old cemetery at Holden speaks of him thus: "He was the man of science, and a zealous, pungent Preacher. The affectionate husband. The tender parent. The kind neighbor, and the cordial friend." "A strong and animated faith in the truth of the gospel was the great solace and anchor of his soul."

Mr. Davis married Catherine Jones, a native of Weston, who survived him several years, dying in May, 1815, aged ninety-seven years.

The house built by Mr. Davis endured long after its builder had passed away from among men. It stood where the residence of Samuel W. Armington now stands, and was familiarly known as the "red house." It was for some time occupied by Lemuel Davis, a son of Rev. Mr. Davis, who later built for himself the brick house at the corner of the common. This man, often familiarly called 'Squire Lemuel Davis, was long an active and influential citizen.

MAJOR PAUL DAVIS.

Major Paul Davis was a descendant in the fifth generation from Dolor Davis, who came from Kent, England, to this country in 1634. He settled in Cambridge; afterwards removed to Concord, and died at Barnstable, in June, 1673. His first wife was Margery Willard, by whom he had three children, Ruth, Simon and Samuel. Samuel married Mary Meads, January 11th, 1665, and they had six children, Mary, Samuel, David, Eleazer, Stephen and Simon. Simon was born August 9th, 1683, and died in 1763. He married Dorothy Hale. They

had eight children : Simon, Israel, Joseph, Eleazer, Martha, Oliver, Mary and Azubar. Israel was born in 1717, and died in 1791. In 1739, he married Mary Hurbert. Their children were Betsey, Mary, Israel, Hannah, Paul, Esther, Joseph, Solomon, Samuel and Catharine.

Paul Davis, Sr., was born in 1747, and died in 1835. He married Lydia Black, who died October 20th, 1826. Their children were Lydia, Paul and Daniel. He kept a hotel on the hill overlooking Eagleville for forty years. It was not a temperance house—such were unknown in those days—although its landlord was an entirely temperate man, never having drunk a glass of liquor in his life, even refusing a hot sling given by his physician the day he died. He was a man of integrity and respected by every one. He served the town of Holden as clerk for a term of seventeen years.

Paul Davis, Jr., was born December 8th, 1779, and died at Holden, August 27th, 1864. By occupation, he was a farmer. He was born, as were his twelve children, in the old "Landlord Davis Hotel." He was connected with the state militia, having been commissioned Lieutenant, March 2d, 1810; Captain, March 31st, 1812; and Major, May 14th, 1812. He succeeded his father in the office of town clerk, which he held for thirty-seven years. He was also treasurer, selectman, assessor and representative.

He voluntarily resigned the office of clerk in 1857. The town gave him an unanimous vote of thanks, and ordered that the same be placed upon the town records. Too much cannot be said of his uprightness, integrity and faithfulness in every walk in life.

He was married to Millia Clapp, daughter of Deacon Seth Clapp, of Holden, by whom he had twelve children : Mary, Joseph, Lucy C., Teresa, Samuel, Paul, Daniel, John N., Avery, Maria M., Dennis and Mary Jane.

Mary, married Dennis Davis, of Holden, and died in July,
1826.

Joseph, married Emily Clemans, of Dudley, and had nine
children.



JAMES DORR,
PROPRIETOR OF SPRINGDALE MILLS.



Lucy C., married Dennis Davis, being his second wife.

She died May 21st, 1877. They had four children.

Teresa, married Rev. Elnathan Davis, of Holden. They had two children. She died September 28th, 1841.

Samuel, married Celesta Clemans, of Dudley, by whom he had one child. His second wife was Chloe Simpson, of Dudley. They had four children. Later, he married Amy, widow of Saladin Hale, of Millbury.

Paul, died at the age of three years.

Daniel, married Harriet Woodward, of Sturbridge, by whom he had two children. His second wife was Jessie MacArthur, of Avoca, Canada.

John N., died November 17th, 1843, unmarried.

Avery, married Lydia G. Hale, of Norridgewock, Me. They have three children.

Maria M., died unmarried.

Dennis, died in infancy.

Mary Jane, married Simon E. Combs, of Holden.

REV. ANDREW DUNN.

The Rev. Andrew Dunn was born in Gardner, June 30th, 1813; studied at South Reading and Lexington academies, and was graduated from the Newton Theological Institution in 1842. He has been pastor at Winchendon, where he was ordained, 1842 to 1852; Holden, 1853; North Bridgewater, 1854; Weymouth, 1854 to 1858; Chatham, 1858 to 1860; the Still River church, in the town of Harvard, 1860 to 1863; East Gloucester, 1863 to 1867; East Haverhill, 1867 to 1871; Rowley, 1871 to 1874; West Newbury, 1874 to 1878; East Brookfield, 1878 to 1881; Fitzwilliam, N. H., 1881 to 1887; West Royalston, 1887 to 1891. He still resides at the last named place, but does not perform any ministerial labor.

REV. DAVID FOSTER ESTES.

The Rev. David Foster Estes was born in Auburn, Me., October 18th, 1851. He was graduated from the University of Vermont in 1871, and from the Newton Theological Institution in 1874. A year was also spent—1878, 1879—in study at the University of Göttingen, Germany. He was ordained at Manchester, Vt., August 19th, 1874, and was pastor there from 1874 to 1876; at Belfast, Me., from 1876 to 1878, and at Vergennes, Vt., from 1880 to 1883. He was a teacher in the Atlanta Baptist Seminary, Atlanta, Ga., from 1883 to 1886, and Acting Principal of the same. He was pastor at Holden from 1886 to 1891. October 1st, 1891, he became Professor of New Testament Interpretation in the Hamilton Theological Seminary, in connection with Colgate University, at Hamilton, N. Y.

REV. SAMUEL EVERETT.

The Rev. Samuel Everett was born in Princeton, October 11th, 1793. He was graduated in 1823 from the Theological Department, soon after discontinued, of Waterville College, now Colby University. He was ordained at Milford, N. H., in 1825, and remained pastor there about eight years. When he began his work with that church, it numbered ninety-six; when he resigned, two hundred and sixteen, more than one hundred having been baptized. A pastorate of about six years at Salisbury, N. H., followed. In 1838 he became pastor at Holden. After laboring a single year here he engaged with others in establishing "The Reflector", a religious weekly since merged in "The Watchman", and, removing to Worcester, he devoted his whole time to this work. In the latter part of the year 1839 he became pastor of the church in North Leverett, where he remained about six years. After closing his work there he preached for a time in North Sun-



CHARLES FLAGG.

derland. He later went west, and died in the state of Michigan, September 22d, 1875. Mr. Everett was a man of great earnestness, and of intense devotion to his work as a minister of the gospel. He was also a leader in the work of temperance reform. While in Holden, he officiated at the funeral of Philip Edwards, who was murdered by John L. Davis while the latter was crazed by drink. His uncompromising and outspoken assertion of the truth in the case made him enemies, and perhaps seemed to result to his disadvantage, but he never swerved and never regretted his straightforwardness. Such men both in pulpit and pew have made Holden and all New England what they are.

REV. HENRY CLINTON FAY.

The Rev. Henry Clinton Fay was born in Shrewsbury, March 4th, 1827. He was graduated from Leicester Academy in 1850; from Amherst College in 1854, and from the Bangor Theological Seminary in 1857. He was ordained December 28th, 1858, at Northwood, N. H., and served as pastor there from 1858 to 1864, and also a second term, from 1881 to 1885; at Norton, from 1854 to 1868; at Hubbardston, from 1868 to 1870; at Harwich Port, from 1870 to 1873; at Townsend, from 1873 to 1876; at Centre Brook, Conn., from 1877 to 1880; at Holden, from 1880 to 1881; at Londonderry, N. H., from 1885 to 1888; at North Reading, since 1888.

CHARLES FLAGG.

Charles Flagg was born in Holden, December 25th, 1807. He was son of Deacon Silas and Sally Winch Flagg. When but three years of age he received an injury to his right knee, causing a lameness, which has been a lifelong burden. He lived with his father on the old homestead, near the Holden

Reservoir until he was twenty-four years of age, when he married Elizabeth Cheney, daughter of Rev. Joseph Cheney of Salisbury, Vt., a former resident of Holden, and purchasing the farm of his grandfather in Holden, operated for three years the saw and grist mill on that place.

In 1834 he sold out to Deacon Newell Moore, and moved to North Spencer where he was employed by Washington Hill, as clerk in his store, and in driving an express team to Boston, which he did every week for three years. In 1840 he purchased a store in East Brookfield, and was appointed postmaster, which office he held for several years. When the depot of the Boston & Albany Railroad was finished, he was appointed agent, and selling out his interest in the store he removed the post-office to the station. He continued for thirteen years in the service of the Railroad company, during which time he dealt largely in real estate, owning at one time several farms and other property.

He then resigned his position, and, moving his family to Worcester, entered into a copartnership with T. W. Converse, in a flour and grain commission house, having an office in Albany, N. Y. This business was carried on for twelve years, until the summer of 1869, when he buried his wife, and returned to the old homestead to care for his aged father, remaining there until after his death.

In the spring of 1873, he bought the Jones Davis place in Holden Center, where he still resides. In the fall of the same year, he married Martha S. Locke, of Corinth, Vt.

Of excellent business ability and unswerving integrity, the town has made constant demand for his services in various positions. He served as Selectman in the years 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872 and 1876, the last two years as chairman of the board; as Town Treasurer in the years 1871, 1872 and 1876, and as chairman of the Overseers of the Poor in 1871 and 1872. Notwithstanding the large demands for time and service in town offices, it was in his relations to the Congregational Church that his energy, zeal and generosity were most conspicuous. He did his full share in every labor



SILAS FLAGG.

connected with the church after moving to town, and even before that, while still living in Worcester, the finances of the church being in a low state, he evinced his interest by circulating a paper, and raising several hundred dollars, doing as much as any one man, if not more, to retain Dr. Paine through his long pastorate. His children were :

Preston, born in 1839 ; died July 20th, 1858.

Mary E., born November 15th, 1840 ; married Lewis F. Hubbard, who died September 19th, 1879, aged thirty years. Their children are : Charles P. Hubbard, born January 16th, 1872, and Loring F. Hubbard, born December 25th, 1877.

SILAS FLAGG.

Deacon Silas Flagg, a son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Flagg, was born in Holden, February 16th, 1778. Early in his majority, his father divided his large homestead, and on that part which fell to him and adjoining lands which he purchased, he erected large farm buildings. This estate, under his good management, became one of the best in this vicinity. In addition to his farming pursuits, he became a building contractor and manufacturer of lumber for building purposes.

Being a man of strong mind, of broad yet conservative views, of large experience, and possessed of a tenacious memory, he was well qualified to act as counsellor for such as might choose to avail themselves of his advice in business affairs. His townsmen chose him to represent them in all the important offices in their gift, including Representative to the General Court in 1828, 1829, 1836, 1837, 1839, and 1840, and chairman of Selectmen and of Assessors at different times.

His religious life was noted for lack of anything of a spasmodic nature. At thirty-seven years of age he was chosen to the office of Deacon of the First Congregational Church, which office he held during the remainder of his consistent Christian life. His death occurred June 6th, 1870.

MAJOR THERON E. HALL.

Theron Edmund, son of Edmund Trowbridge and Abigail Slocum Hall, was born in Sutton, November 8th, 1821. He received his education in the public schools of that town, with short terms at the academies at Plainfield and Leicester. At the latter place he taught in the public schools, previous to his marriage in May, 1843, to Jemima Wight, daughter of Billings Mann, of the firm of Mann & Marshall, then engaged in the manufacture of satinets in "West Village," Holden. He entered their employ and remained with them until their removal to Leicester, when he assumed charge of the business in Holden.

In May, 1858, he entered into partnership with Mr. William Howe of Holden, the business being carried on from that date under the firm name of "Hall & Howe." He held many responsible town offices and for several years was a Deputy Sheriff. At the outbreak of the rebellion, in 1861, he retired from business that he might enter the service of his country.

He was active in the formation, and was the first Captain of Company I, Tenth Regiment, afterward Company B, Third Battalion of Rifles, and was, later, Quartermaster on the staff of Major-General Augustus Morse. After the attack on Fort Sumter he tendered his services to Governor Andrew, and engaged in recruiting and forwarding troops.

In the formation of the Twenty-First Regiment he was appointed First Lieutenant and Adjutant and went into active service, remaining with the regiment until after the battle of Newbern, when he was appointed Chief-Quartermaster on the staff of General Reno, who commanded the Third Brigade of Burnside's Corps. After the death of General Reno, he was promoted to the staff of Major-General Burnside and assigned to the charge of the post at Aquia Creek, Va., an important distributing point for the Army of the Potomac. In June, 1863, he was transferred to Camp Nelson, Ky., and for a time acted as Chief-Quartermaster of Kentucky. Here he established the depot of

supplies for the Army of the Northwest, and remained in charge until his resignation.

In 1864, having received authority from Washington, notwithstanding strenuous opposition of the native Kentuckians, under leadership of General Fry, commandant of the post, he inaugurated the enlistment of colored troops. Over twelve thousand colored men enlisted from this camp. At the close of the war he was Superintendent of the Refugees' Home, established in Kentucky.

He returned to Massachusetts with health much impaired, and although he was engaged in manufacturing in Sutton, Cherry Valley and Holden, 1865-1873, his strength would not permit the renewal of his former active business life.

In the session of 1866 he served in the State Legislature. He removed to Worcester in 1866. In 1873 and 1874 he was Secretary of the National Soldier's Home at Togus, Maine.

In November, 1875, he removed to San Diego, California, hoping, by a change of climate, to regain his health; but the benefit derived was but temporary. He died in San Diego, August 4th, 1880, and was buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Leicester, August 25th, 1881, with Masonic honors, Theron E. Hall Post 77, G. A. R., of Holden, doing escort duty.

REV. ISAAC SMALL HAMBLÉN.

The Rev. Isaac Small Hamblen was born in Limington, Me., March 24th, 1833. He was fitted for college at the Academy at North Conway, N. H., and was graduated from Waterville College, now Colby University, in 1858. For three years he was principal of Waterville Academy, now Coburn Classical Institute, proving himself a successful teacher. With health somewhat broken he left Waterville in 1861 to engage in business with his brother in Lovell, Me. With returning health the thirst for knowledge came back, and in connection with

his business he studied law, and was about to be admitted to the bar, when his conversion changed his plan of life.

He was graduated from the Newton Theological Institution in 1868, and was ordained at East Abington, now Rockland, September 17th, 1868, where he was pastor until October, 1872. He then went to Winchendon, where he remained till March, 1880. From April 24th, 1880, to January 31st, 1886, he was pastor at Holden. After three months spent in Florida, and supplying the churches at Petersham, and Yarmouth, Me., for a time, he became pastor, November 1st, 1886, of the church at North Berwick, Me., where he remained till the close of April, 1891. He then accepted a call from the church in East Winthrop, Me., and removed to that place, but enfeebled by a recent attack of la grippe, he was unable to take up the work of the ministry there, and, consumption soon setting in, he died August 19th, 1891.

Mr. Hamblen possessed a keen sense of justice and love for the truth, strength of conviction and tenacity of purpose, and faithfulness and fearlessness in speech and action, when he saw the right. He was a diligent student of the Bible and from the pulpit and in the Sunday School set forth its truths with great clearness and force.

REV. JOHN S. HARADON.

The Rev. John S. Haradon was born at Mansfield, March 26th, 1815. At the age of nineteen he began teaching. His first school was in the town of Florida, and the school-house stood on Hoosac Mountain near the line of the tunnel. Hoping to secure a school in that neighborhood, he walked to Providence, R. I., and back to Florida in four days. He taught in New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts for many years. He was ordained to the ministry at Manchaug, in Sutton, September 13th, 1858. He was pastor at Manchaug from 1858 to 1865; at Holden from 1865 to 1868; at Goffstown Centre, N. H., from 1868 to 1870; at Ayer from 1870 to 1873.



THOMAS HENNESSEY.

and at East Jaffrey, N. H., from 1873 until his death, August 4th, 1875. He was an earnest Christian man and is especially remembered as a faithful pastor who watched for souls and sought to win them. He was also everywhere a consistent temperance man and an active worker in that department of Christian endeavor.

THOMAS HENNESSEY.

Thomas Hennessey was born at Marysburg, County of Queens, Ireland, May 17th, 1847. He was the son of Martin and Mary Hennessey, who with their eight children emigrated to America November 2d, 1864, and found employment in a woolen factory at Winooski, Vt. In the winter of 1864 and 1865 Thomas procured work at pressing hay for the government, among the farmers of Vermont, and in 1865 he took charge of the work. The following two years he worked by the day as a stone mason. In 1868 he had a contract on the Woodstock Railroad in Vermont; in 1869 he received the contract for the rock excavation on the Suncook Valley Railroad, in New Hampshire; in 1870 he was engaged to take charge of the masonry on the Boston, Barre & Gardner Railroad; from 1871 to 1873 he had superintendence of the masonry on the Massachusetts Central Railroad. He was next employed to take charge of the masonry on the Lowell & Andover Railroad. In 1875, after the Williamsburg disaster, Mr. Hennessey was employed to construct the masonry for the new dam. During the two succeeding years he had the contract for the masonry on a part of the Hoosac Tunnel Railroad.

January 1st, 1876, Mr. Hennessey married Mary Ellen, daughter of Dennis and Mary Jane Harrington, of Jefferson. Their seven children, all born in this town, except the second child, Dennis, whose birthplace was Princeton, are as follows:

Martin Joseph, born February 7th, 1877.

Dennis Leo, born March 8th, 1878.

Mary Francis, born September 4th, 1879.

Thomas, born December 25th, 1881.

James, born October 11th, 1883.

Daniel, born July 11th, 1888.

William B., born February 26th, 1890.

In 1878 he was awarded the contract on the Manchester & Keene Railroad, doing work that amounted to \$6,900, but for which he received only a ton of hay and \$50 in money. When finished he returned to Jefferson, in the fall of 1878, \$400 worse than nothing. But through the kindness of Mrs. Harrington, he was set on his feet again, for her bank book was promptly placed at his disposal.

Among his works in Holden may be mentioned the grading about the residence of Mr. S. F. Morse; the building of the canal and wheel pit for Messrs. Howe & Jefferson; the excavation and building of nearly all the cellars in Jefferson, for contractor W. E. Austin and others; building of two dams for Mr. C. G. Wood and the West Boylston Manufacturing Company; the work done in Grove Cemetery for Mrs. A. Coe, Mr. William Howe and Mr. Charles Flagg; the lockup; the basement and grading for St. Mary's Church, and the excavation and stone work for the Damon Memorial. In neighboring towns his work has been varied and abundant, including the two dams for the town of Clinton; the dam and complete water system of the town of Brookfield; a dam for the town of Southbridge; the stone Baptist church in West Boylston; the stone chapel and tomb in the cemetery there,—all these have been under his management. At the present writing, 1892, he is engaged in the construction of the \$100,000 water system which the town of North Brookfield is putting in.

Mr. Hennessey has filled the offices of Field Driver, Constable, Highway Commissioner and Selectman in this town. As a member of the Law and Order League he, with others, did valiant service in putting down the illegal traffic in liquors, and greatly aided the cause of temperance and good morals.



COL. JOAB S. HOLT.

He was also a member of the Committee of Arrangements for the celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the town.

JOAB SMITH HOLT.

Colonel Joab S. Holt was of English descent. He was the second son of Jonas and Anna Read Holt, and was born in West Boylston, October 25th, 1807.

On account of sickness in his father's family when about five years of age, he came to Holden to live with his grandmother, but was too homesick to remain very long; two years later he came again and ever after continued to live on the same place until the time of his death.

March 8th, 1834, he married Clarissa, daughter of Attai Hubbard. Their family numbered seven children;

Marietta, born April 16th, 1838; married George Bascom, February 28th, 1865.

Henry M., born April 23d, 1841; died October 14th, 1862, a member of Company B, Fifty-first Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers.

Clara Ann, born July 31st, 1843; married Ormond D. Kimball, November, 1876, and died in Manchester, N. H., July, 1878.

Ellen Maria, born September 27th, 1845; died October, 1862.

Frederick Taylor, born March 13th, 1849; married Julia, youngest daughter of Oliver Lowell, September, 1883. They have two children; Clara Lowell, born November 12th, 1885, and Henry Ernest, born March 20th, 1889.

Joab Winthrop, born March 30th, 1852; married Stella, youngest daughter of Samuel and Nancy Howe Turner, October 29th, 1891.

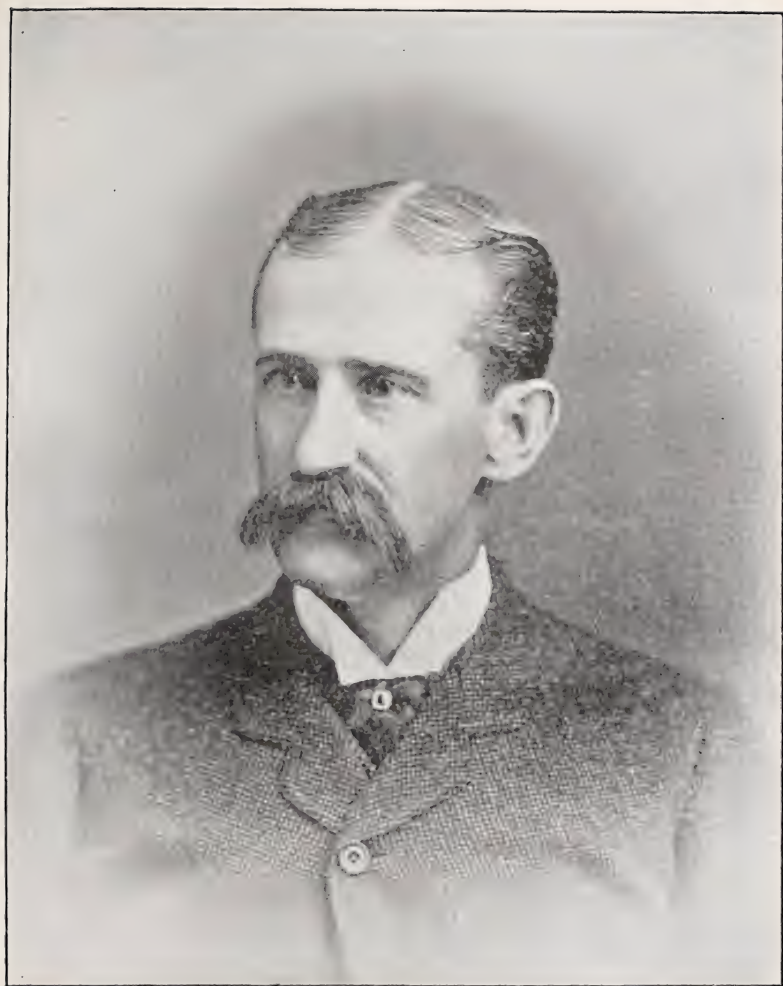
Flora Celia, born January 23d, 1856; married Fred A. Harbison, June 29th, 1891.

Colonel Holt was naturally ambitious. He early became active in military life, was commissioned Ensign April 13th, 1832, and rapidly rose step by step to the rank of Colonel which commission was conferred July 6th, 1837. Later he interested himself in railroad enterprise and was one of the original charter members of the Boston, Barre & Gardner Railroad Company, and was one of those who contributed most largely of their time and money to keep alive the charter. Though the original route was not followed, their untiring efforts finally resulted in building the road through the town, and thus not a little was added to the general prosperity of the community.

Colonel Holt was eminently public-spirited, and liberal in his support of the church and all enterprises for the advancement of his town and county, and was honored by his townsmen with places of trust and responsibility. He died January, 1869, at the age of sixty-two. His wife died October 17th, 1891.

MAJOR CHURCH HOWE.

Church Howe was born in Princeton, December 13th, 1839, and was educated in common schools and academy. He enlisted as a private in Company G, Sixth Regiment, April 16th, 1861; was promoted to Quartermaster-Sergeant, April 17th; passed through Baltimore April 19th, and remained with his regiment on duty till August. He was commissioned by Governor Andrew, August 1st, 1861, First Lieutenant and Quartermaster, Fifteenth Regiment. November 2d, he was detached from his regiment and assigned to duty as Ordnance Officer on the staff of General Stone, commanding Corps of Observation at Poolsville, Md.; February 22d, 1862, he was assigned to duty as Senior Aide-de-Camp to General Sedgwick, commanding the Second Division, Second Corps, remaining with him through the Peninsula Campaign and into the Maryland Campaign, in which at Antietam, September 17th, he was wounded; November 2d, 1862, he was assigned to duty on the



George H. Davis

staff of General Slocum, commanding Twelfth Corps, and was made Provost-Marshal of Northern Maryland and West Virginia, with headquarters at Harpers Ferry; December 27th, 1862, he was again assigned as Senior Aide-de-Camp to General Sedgwick, who commanded the Ninth Corps, and later the Sixth Corps; January 8th, 1863, he was commissioned Captain of Company K., Fifteenth Regiment, and March 13th, 1865, he was breveted Major. He took part in the battles of Ball's Bluff, Yorktown, Fair Oaks, Gaines' Mill, Peach Orchard, Savage Station, Charles City Cross-Road, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Flint Hill, Second Bull Run and Antietam.

After the close of his military service Mr. Howe returned to Massachusetts and located in Holden, purchasing the mills at Quinapoxet and engaging in the manufacture of woolen goods. He was elected a member of the Board of Selectmen of the town and served as such during the years 1865 and 1866.

In 1866 he was appointed by President Johnson Collector of Internal Revenue for the Eighth Massachusetts District. In 1869 he was commissioned by President Grant United States Marshal for Wyoming Territory and assisted in its organization.

In 1871 he removed to Nebraska and established "Walnut Grove Stock Farm," containing some two thousand five hundred acres, on the fertile prairie of Nemaha County, where he has since resided, engaged extensively in farming and stock raising. Ten years later the Missouri Pacific Railway came across the west line of the farm and there located the town of Howe, and six miles north, on a tract of four hundred acres, Mr. Howe and associates laid out the town of Auburn, the present county seat of Nemaha County with three thousand inhabitants.

Mr. Howe has taken an active part in the development of his adopted state. In addition to his farming interests he is engaged in banking and railroad building, being for several years Vice-President of the Nebraska extension of the Missouri Pacific system. He has been a member of the Nebraska Legislature in House and Senate from the same District for

twenty years, and has twice been President of the Senate. He is a member of the State Board of Education, and was Nebraska's member of the Republican National Committee from 1884 to 1888.

LEVI HUBBARD HOWE.

Levi Hubbard Howe was born August 23d, 1845. He was the third son of Silas and Persis Hubbard Howe. He was a farmer's boy, his whole life has been spent in the occupation of farming, and he takes pride in his claim to be "a Holden farmer." He remained at home with his father, until he was twenty-five years old. In 1871 he purchased a farm in the edge of Princeton, not far from the Holden line, and only about a mile from his boyhood's home. This place he carried on till 1884, when at his father's desire he returned to manage the old homestead, which he did until the death of his father, in October, 1891. In the spring of 1892 he bought the Ethan Davis place at the Center, which he has refitted so much as necessary with the intention of making it his permanent home.

In 1869, at the time of the great revival, he was baptized into the fellowship of the Baptist church, of which he has been a member ever since.

May 3d, 1871, he married Angelia R. daughter of William Moore of Holden. They have four children ;

William J., born August 1st, 1874.

Edith G., born December 22d, 1875.

Clara Persis, born June 16th, 1877.

Olive A., born February 2d, 1880.

SILAS HOWE.

Silas Howe was born October 5th, 1814, on his father's place in the extreme northern part of Holden. He was the son of Jotham Howe, who was the son of an elder Jotham Howe.



LEVI H. HOWE.



SILAS HOWE.

Silas Howe had an elder brother, Jotham, and two younger sisters, Elmira and Susan.

April 24th, 1838, he married Persis Walker, daughter of Benjamin Hubbard. After her death, February 22d, 1884, he married, November 6th, 1884, Malvina Henry, widow of Jonathan Dow. By his first wife he had eight children ;

Augustus F., born April 12th, 1839; died October 25th, 1879.

Charles N., born January 27th, 1841.

Frances A., born February 7th, 1843; died July 1st, 1869.

Levi H., born August 23d, 1845.

Mary C. born October 10th, 1847; died February 5th, 1869.

Joseph L., twin with the last named.

Hervey N., born June 4th, 1849; died September 27th, 1849.

Silas A., born September 18th, 1856; died August 6th, 1878.

Immediately after his marriage Mr. Howe settled on the homestead of his wife's father, which continued to be his home until his death. While he carried on the farm for more than forty years, this was by no means his only employment. He taught school for many years, even after his marriage and settlement on the farm; he also busied himself in teaming, clearing woodlots, and burning charcoal and marketing it. The very considerable estate which he left at his death was gained by untiring industry, combined with great frugality and more than ordinary foresight and shrewdness. He often remarked that he never knew what it was to be tired until he began to grow old. When a young man he used to work at the saw mill at North Woods all night and half the day following, eighteen hours out of twenty-four. It may pass as an example of his shrewdness or of his patriotism, that he invested largely in Government Bonds during the dark years from 1861 to 1865.

He was accustomed to read considerably, and greatly enjoyed an argument, but he was an independent thinker. He liked to

study things out for himself; almost never taking a lawyer's advice as to his business; usually consulting somebody, but quite likely going counter to their advice.

Mr. Howe held in town the offices of District School Committee, Overseer of the Poor and Highway Surveyor.

After a prolonged, though not painful illness, he died at his old home, October 29th, 1891.

WILLIAM HOWE.

Deacon William Howe was born in Holden, in which town he has all his life resided, June 1st, 1814. He was the son of Thomas Howe, who was born August 19th, 1785. The parents of Thomas Howe were Jotham and Dorothy Howe. Mr. Howe's mother was Sally, daughter of Hezekiah and Lucy Raymond Walker. She was born May 30th, 1787.

The subject of our sketch was the third child and third son in a family of fourteen children, of whom ten lived to maturity and eight still survive. They were as follows:

Amasa, born November 13th, 1807; died July 21st, 1876.

Lyman, born December 13th, 1811; died September 21st, 1882.

William, born June 1st, 1814.

Thomas, born April 8th, 1816.

Joel, born May 11th, 1818.

Sarah, born May 3d, 1820; married Danford Hall.

John W., born January 11th, 1822.

Nancy Judson, born March 19th, 1824; married Samuel Turner.

George, born May 25th, 1827.

Abby, born January 5th, 1832; married Warren L. Gleason.

Four other children died in infancy.

William Howe lived at home, attending district school both summer and winter till eleven years old. After that he attended



William Howe

school only in winter, working on the farm with his father and brothers during summer.

In 1839 he settled on a farm of his own in the northern part of Holden, which he carried on with marked industry, energy and success till 1858. In that year he formed a co-partnership with Major Theron E. Hall, and engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods, in the village of Drydenville, now Jefferson, where he resided till 1889, when he moved to Holden Center and erected the house in which he now lives.

His partnership with Major Hall continued two years, when Martin V. B. Jefferson purchased the interest of Major Hall, and business was continued under the firm name of Howe & Jefferson for twenty-six years. The skill and success of this firm in the manufacture of woolen goods is sufficiently shown by the facts that when they commenced manufacturing they ran one set of woolen machinery, and that, when the partnership was dissolved, they were running twelve sets, with a corresponding growth of Jefferson, which has come to be one of the most attractive and flourishing manufacturing villages in Central Massachusetts.

January 1st, 1886, Mr. Howe disposed of his interest in the business to his partner.

Mr. Howe married, in December, 1839, Mary Ann, daughter of John Jefferson. Mrs. Howe died June 10th, 1887. His family consists of three daughters :

Augusta F., born August 10th, 1842; married, August 15th, 1861, M. V. B. Jefferson, now of Worcester.

Anna M., born July 27th, 1844; married, June 1st, 1865, Addison N. Putman, who died August 10th, 1878.

Dora L., born October 23d, 1856; married, November 8th, 1877, Henry W. Warren, of Holden.

Mr. Howe has been repeatedly chosen by his fellow citizens to responsible positions in town affairs. He has been eleven times a member of the board of Selectmen for the town of Holden, holding the office, when first chosen, for six years in

succession. He was also chosen to represent his district in the Legislature of 1878, serving upon the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

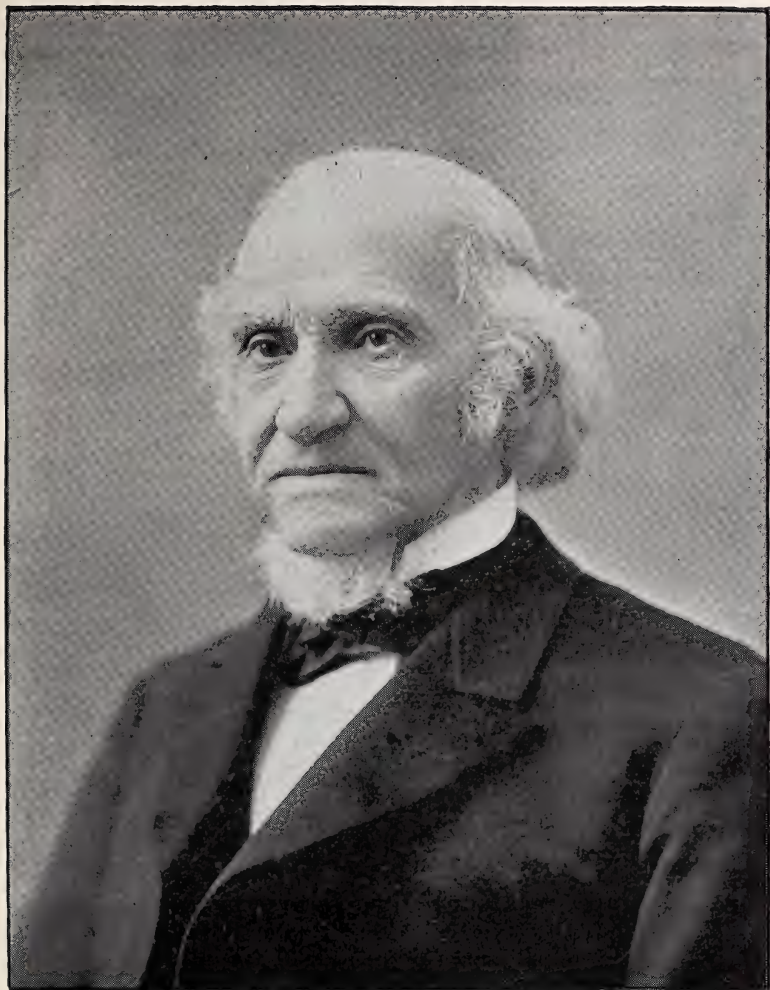
Mr. Howe has maintained an active and honorable connection with the Baptist Church for more than sixty years. In 1873 he was chosen deacon of the Church, the duties of which office he still efficiently discharges. His parents were constituent members of the Holden Baptist Church, and not less than thirty members of their family, near and remote, have been connected with it during its history, covering now four-score years. Mr. Howe's many excellences, his good judgment of men, his wisdom and tact, his gentle firmness and unwearied patience, and his spotless honor—have endeared him to all who may claim his friendship, as well as to his family, and have made him highly respected and esteemed in still wider circles, as well as in church and town where best known.

WILLIAM HOWE, D. D.

William Howe, D. D., was born in Worcester, May 25th, 1806. By the death of his father, he, at a very early age, with three other children, was left dependent upon his mother. In this bereavement, aid from the "Father of the fatherless" came in the person of William Metcalf, a Christian and highly respected citizen of Holden, who, touched by Christian sympathy, took the boy into his own home and cared for him as a father.

The religious instruction in the family and the constant inculcation of the principles of the Bible, followed by example, made indelible impressions which quickened into life those germs of character which were permanent in after years.

At length there came a dark day when health failed and hopes for his chosen calling in life vanished. This was a great affliction to him but he often refers to it as one of his greatest blessings. God had other purposes to be revealed. God's



WILLIAM HOWE, D. D.

truth, and His claims upon the service of intelligent beings, ever before him, so deeply impressed his mind that at a time of religious awakening he accepted Christ as his Savior, entered upon a new life, and was received into the Baptist Church of Holden, of which Rev. John Walker was then pastor. He at once commenced an active Christian life, everywhere testifying of the grace of God.

His purpose was now to acquire an education. He began his studies in the first High School organized in Holden, which were continued in the High School in Worcester, and in the Academy in Amherst, receiving from his instructors encouragement and aid in obtaining positions to teach, by which he defrayed his expenses, choosing the independence of self-reliance. The School Committee of Holden honored him with the position of principal of the High School of which he had been a pupil.

By strict economy, self-denial and courage, he was fitted for college and entered Waterville College, now Colby University, in the fall of 1829. In his first interview with the president of the college he was asked if he proposed to take a full college course. "I expect to remain as long as I can pay my bills," was the prompt reply. This answer contained an important principle which has governed him through life,—“Owe no man anything.” In the summer of 1833 he was graduated, having completed the full course of study and paid the last bill of indebtedness. Before leaving the college, Professor Keely, in behalf of the faculty and trustees, waited on him with the request that he remain connected with the college as tutor, adding as an inducement,—“We know of no one who would be so welcomed by the students.” This request was respectfully declined, Mr. Howe feeling that this was not the calling for which he had so long struggled.

In the fall of 1833 Mr. Howe entered the Newton Theological Institution to pursue a course of study to fit himself for the gospel ministry. This gave great satisfaction to the Holden Church of which he continued a member, and by their unanimous vote he was licensed to “preach as called of God,”

December 3d, 1833. Soon after he united with the Federal Street, now Clarendon Street, Church, Boston, from which he received an invitation to take charge of a mission Sunday-School in Boston, which work he immediately entered upon, walking from Newton into Boston on Saturday afternoon, and walking back to Newton again on Monday morning every week while pursuing his studies. During this time he had a full view of the moral and religious destitution of the large city. His appeals were often heard in public in behalf of those for whom "no man cared." After completing his course of study in Newton he received an urgent call from the churches in Boston to inaugurate a more permanent work in the city, which he accepted, consenting to continue his work for one year, having in view the pastorate of a church. A simple incident in this connection shows the general interest awakened in this work. Mr. Howe received a note from a deacon of a Congregational church, who was ever alive to the interests of the city, desiring him to continue in his own way his work already begun in the city, giving him assurance that he would guarantee his salary.

The story of Mr. Howe's twenty-seven years of public life in Boston and subsequent work in Cambridge can not here be fully told. Inspired by faith in the power of the Gospel, guided by the Invisible Hand that hitherto had led him, he continued his work till he had eight mission Sunday-Schools under his supervision and direction, supplied with superintendents and teachers from the Baptist churches, making them centers of Christian work, which resulted in the formation of other churches which still continue their progressive work. One of these schools, established in the northern part of the city, which began with eleven scholars and a few teachers, so increased in numbers, and developed such interest on the part of the parents and friends in the vicinity, in attending upon Mr. Howe's preaching, that a council, called at Mr. Howe's request, deemed it advisable to establish a church, consisting only of his teachers. This church was called the Union Baptist Church. The little company made unanimous choice of their

leader in the enterprise, as their pastor, he having previously been ordained by the Federal Street Church. Thus Mr. Howe became pastor of a church of his own choice, whose work, with the signal blessing of God, proved a success surpassing the most sanguine expectations of pastor and people, namely, a commodious house of worship, a Sunday-School of six hundred members, an aggressive Church, self-supporting and contributing to the religious and benevolent objects of the day.

During these years of his public ministry Mr. Howe became widely known and appreciated. He was elected member of the Boston school committee, and took active part in organization and management of various Christian and charitable associations. At length the strain upon his physical system became too severe, and he was compelled to resign his beloved charge. Thus closed Mr. Howe's first pastorate. The Church, later, by request of other churches, changed its location to Tremont Temple, and still carries on its aggressive work.

After taking a prolonged rest abroad, visiting Egypt and Syria, he returned invigorated and ready for further service. He was immediately sought by the First Baptist Church in Cambridge, to dedicate and occupy a new chapel built for the accommodation of a Mission Sunday-School.

The field was new, many doubts were expressed as to whereunto this enterprise would grow. But his faith in the great commission, his experience and success in the past and the spirit evinced by the teachers,—“We will go up and possess the land,”—brought from him a hearty response. He entered upon his work the first Sabbath in March, 1863. The Sunday-School and attendance upon preaching services increased. The new chapel was soon enlarged and a church of fifty members organized, consisting of the Sunday-School teachers and those in sympathy with them. Mr. Howe was unanimously elected their pastor.

The work no longer being looked upon as an experiment, the friends of the enterprise resolved to erect a suitable house of worship to meet the demands of the growing congregation. As a result the Broadway Baptist Church, Cambridge, was erected

and dedicated November 22d, 1866, to which the Church and Sunday-School were removed. The new Sunday School room was ere long filled with the five hundred pupils.

The prosperity of Church and Sunday-School continued under Mr. Howe's unwearied efforts. At length, his cares and responsibilities becoming too heavy for his declining years, he resigned his charge in July, 1870, closing his second pastorate, having gathered both churches from the world, under the guidance and blessing of the Great Shepherd, never having "built on other men's foundations." He has enjoyed for fifty-six years in one locality continued religious and ministerial associations.

Dr. Howe, now in his eighty seventh year, is passing the "evening of life" in Cambridge, enjoying his well earned rest, surrounded by many grateful friends who love him for his work's sake.

SILAS M. HUBBARD.

Deacon Silas M. Hubbard was the youngest son of Elisha and Mercy Hubbard.

His father, Deacon Elisha Hubbard, was the son of Samuel and Eunice Hubbard, and was born December 20th, 1744, in the north part of the town of Holden, on a farm lying along the east road leading from Holden to Princeton, on the hill still known as "Hubbard Hill." He was active in all matters pertaining to the general interests of the town, and was ready to do his part whenever and wherever he had an opportunity to do so. He was chosen one of the Selectmen of the town in 1781, 1782, 1783, 1786 and 1787. He was chosen Assessor in 1774, and held the office for fifteen years. At the age of twenty-three years, together with his wife, he united with the Congregational Church, July 31st, 1768. He was a worthy and consistent member, ready to support and sustain the Church in all matters relating to its spiritual growth and its high standing in



SILAS M. HUBBARD.

pure and undefiled Christianity. He served as deacon of the Church from July 31st, 1793, until his death, July 14th, 1814. He married, December 3d, 1767, Mercy Hubbard, who survived him, dying April 21st, 1825, at the age of seventy-eight. They had nine children, of whom one died before reaching the age of two years, the others all lived to have families of their own. These children were :

John, born August 24th, 1768 ; married Lydia Raymond, October, 1790 ; died in Windsor, November 22d, 1849.

Sarah, born April 16th, 1771 ; married Ethan Davis, May 27th, 1792 ; died December 24th, 1818.

Molly, born May 27th, 1773 ; married Peter Hubbard, January 11th, 1794 ; died in Berlin, Vt., May 3d, 1852.

Azubah, born August 13th, 1776 ; married Moses Holt ; died August 9th, 1857.

Eli, born January 21st, 1779 ; married Lucy Walker, March 17th, 1801 ; died in Hinsdale, October 20th, 1814.

Benjamin, born March 18th, 1781 ; married Polly Walker, April 7th, 1803 ; died February 23d, 1836.

Samuel Woodard, born September 28th, 1783 ; married Betsey Hubbard, January 10th, 1811 ; died December, 1850.

Silas Moore, born April 9th, 1788.

Deacon Silas M. Hubbard was received into the Congregational Church, October 5th, 1817, at the age of twenty-eight. He became deacon May 3d, 1839, and held the office twenty-six years, until his death, February 22d, 1865. He was a much respected and honored citizen of the town, always advocating that which was right, just and good. He never was known to encourage or tolerate anything that was demoralizing or inconsistent with an honest, upright Christian character. His example was one worthy of imitation.

He married January 10th, 1811, Abigail Allen. They had five children :

Harriet Moore, born April 10th, 1812; married Harding Hunt, May 21st, 1844; died in Palmer, December 1st, 1882.

Elisha Murdock, born July 2d, 1814; married Caroline Coolidge, April 25th, 1843; died February 11th, 1863.

Dorinda Davis, born November 5th, 1815; married John Cowden, May 19th, 1842; died in Princeton, October 8th, 1863.

Sarah Alona, born March 2d, 1820; married John B. Fay, October 7th, 1841.

Cyrus Kingsbury, born March 12th, 1823.

His first wife died July 31st, 1848. May 23d, 1850, he married Mrs. Eunice C. Wheeler, who died February 7th, 1891, aged ninety-four years.

CYRUS KINGSBURY HUBBARD.

Cyrus Kingsbury Hubbard, the youngest son of Silas M. and Abigail Hubbard, was born in Holden, March 12th, 1823. He married, March 18th, 1849, Mary E. Rice of Worcester. They have one child, Martena Eldora, born December 12th, 1853. At his marriage Mr. Hubbard located with his father on the home farm, where he remained four years. Removing then to Worcester, he was with a firm in the agricultural implement business for six years and a half. He then engaged in the fruit and restaurant business, in which he continued until 1871. For the last twenty-one years he has been in the real estate business, renting property and having the care of it.

He was the youngest son in the fourth generation of Holden Hubbards. When twenty-one years of age, he had fifty own cousins, all of whom were married. Some of the points of interest connected with this branch of the Hubbard family are; every member of the family for four generations, so far as known, was connected with some evangelical church, there



Cyrus K. Hubbard



W. V. B. Johnson

were four who were deacons in Congregational churches, the family were never given to strong drink, and not a member of it has ever been known to be a drunkard. Almost all of the family down to the fourth generation have passed away, but the fifth generation is very numerous, and representatives of it are to be found in nearly every state in the Union.

MARTIN V. B. JEFFERSON.

The Hon. Martin V. B. Jefferson, was born in Uxbridge, May 19th, 1833. His grandfather was a soldier in the Revolution and also in the War of 1812. His father died when Martin was but eight years of age, and he was "put out to live" with an uncle in Holden, on a farm, where he received ten weeks' district schooling and his board and clothes as compensation for his labor. At the age of sixteen his natural independence asserted itself, and he went back to Uxbridge and learned the trade of shoemaking, by the practice of which, working mornings, evenings and during school vacations, he earned money enough to pay his expenses at Uxbridge Academy which he attended for four years. In 1853 he went to work on the Providence & Worcester Railroad as brakeman and baggage-master, but having an arm and leg broken by a railroad accident, he was obliged to suspend work. On his recovery, in 1854, he went to California, where he remained for six years. The first year he kept a restaurant at San Jose, the second year he sold fruit trees at Sonora, but the remainder of his stay in California was devoted to selling milk from a large ranch where he kept from eighty to one hundred cows.

Having acquired a considerable sum of money, Mr. Jefferson, in 1860, returned to Holden, where he married a daughter of Deacon William Howe, of the firm of Hall & Howe, who were then running a small, one-set woolen mill in Drydenville, now Jefferson. In November, 1860, he purchased Mr. Hall's inter-

est in the mill, and for twenty-six years he was in partnership with his father-in-law in that business under the firm name of Howe & Jefferson. Meanwhile the little one-set mill was enlarged six-fold, and a second mill with six sets of machinery was added, making a total of thirteen sets, the two establishments employing two hundred and fifty hands. The little village has grown to eight times its former size, and now supports two railroad stations on the Fitchburg and Central Massachusetts Railroads and a post-office. In 1880 Mr. Jefferson bought his partner's interest in the business, and now runs the mills himself, by the name of the Jefferson Manufacturing Company, making woolen goods.

About noon, December 8th, 1892, the mill property caught fire from the picker house, and the lower mill, together with the picker house, a stock house and a two-tenement dwelling were burned. The loss was nearly \$150,000. Arrangements were at once made for building on the site of the burned mill a new mill of brick, embodying the latest and best ideas on mill construction. In March, 1893, the Jefferson Manufacturing Company also purchased the real estate of the Holden Mills.

For ten years Mr. Jefferson served as selectman of Holden, a portion of the time as chairman of the board. In 1875 he removed his residence to Worcester for the sake of better educational advantages for his daughter. He was a director of the Boston, Barre & Gardner Railroad for several years, is a director of the Cotton and Woolen Manufacturers' Mutual Insurance Company, and also of the Quinsigamond National Bank of Worcester.

In politics he has been a staunch Republican since he cast his first vote for John C. Fremont for President in 1856. He was elected to the State House of Representatives of 1880, from the Nineteenth Worcester District, by a handsome majority, and was returned in 1881. He brought to his legislative duties the same stirring qualities he has displayed in other things, and served on the important committee on the Hoosac Tunnel, Troy & Greenfield Railroad. Mr. Jefferson was elected to the State Senate from the First Worcester District which

comprised the city of Worcester, in 1884 and 1885, and served on the committees on Railroads, Treasury and Labor. In 1888 he was chosen an alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention from the Tenth Congressional District.

Mr. Jefferson's business capacity, shrewdness and integrity have secured for him a merited success in business and the confidence and esteem of a large circles of acquaintances. He is accustomed to congratulate himself that he has always paid one hundred cents on the dollar, a phrase which fully expresses the general estimation in which Mr. Jefferson is held socially and politically, as it does his financial and business standing.

REV. THOMAS F. JOYCE.

The Rev. Thomas F. Joyce, second pastor of St. Mary's parish, was born in Worcester, March 6th, 1849. He was educated in the public schools of Worcester, and at Ottawa and Holy Cross Colleges. His course in theology was made at the Seminary of St. Sulpice, at Montreal, Canada, where he was ordained priest in December, 1878. His first appointment was to West Stockbridge, and at different times he did the work of an assistant in Worcester, Uxbridge, North Brookfield and West Boylston. He was appointed to succeed Father McCloskey in Holden, and began his work in October, 1886. After only fifteen months of labor he took a severe cold, in the faithful performance of his duties, and died January 17th, 1888. His remains lie buried in the Roman Catholic cemetery at Holden. During his brief stay in town Father Joyce won the warm affection of her people and the high respect of all who knew him.

IRA JUDSON KELTON.

Ira Judson Kelton was born in Warwick, September 1st, 1837. In early youth, he removed with his parents to Holden, where he lived until the attack on Sumter called him to the defence of his country.

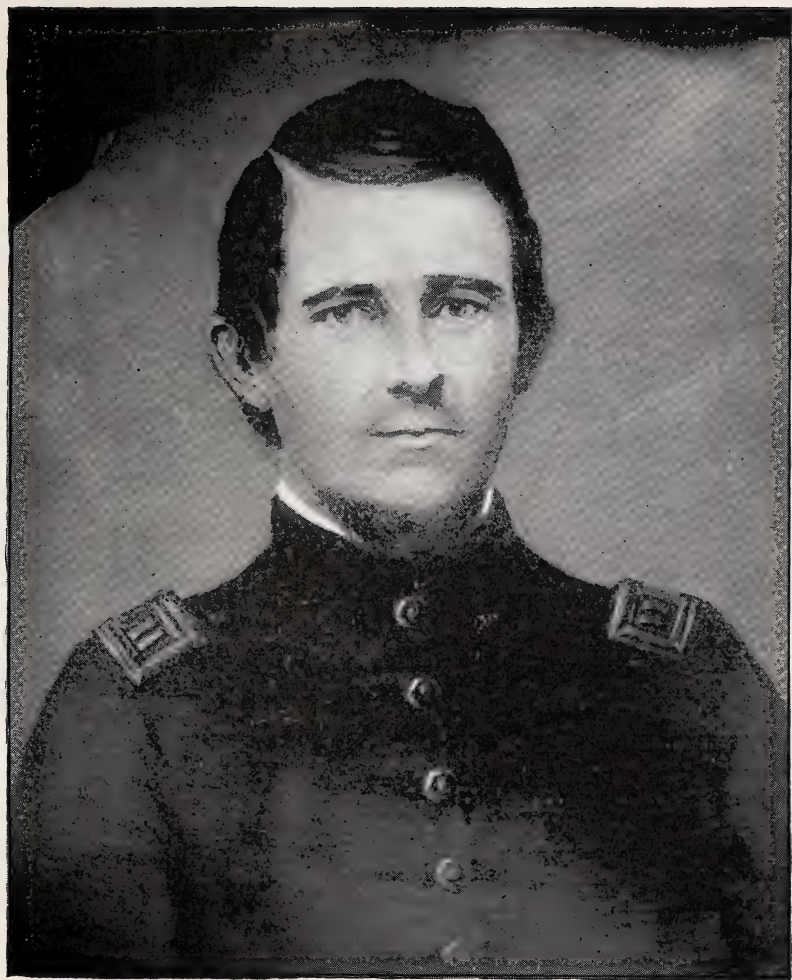
Before the breaking out of the war, he became ambitious for a cadetship in the Military Academy at West Point. Application was made for an appointment, but sufficient influence was lacking, and he failed to get it. When Governor Andrew called for volunteers in April, 1861, his opportunity came, and he quickly improved it by enlisting in Company B, Third Battalion, as a private.

Kelton's eminent fitness for promotion was so apparent that he was soon appointed Corporal, and then Sergeant. His quickness and accuracy in the manual of arms and his soldierly appearance on drill made him the best drill officer in the company, and he was detailed to that duty. Sergeant Kelton was discharged at the expiration of his term of service, at Worcester, August 3d, 1861.

He immediately interested himself in recruiting for the Twenty-first Regiment, enlisting himself, drilling recruits and acting as Adjutant with a soldierly bearing that marked him as worthy of a commission, which he received, as Second Lieutenant, bearing date of August 21st, 1861. He was assigned to Company C, and February 28th, 1862, he was commissioned First Lieutenant. May 17th, following, he was promoted to a Captaincy.

His regiment joined General Burnside's expedition to Newbern, N. C. He was engaged in the battles of Roanoke, Newbern and Camden, always distinguishing himself as a daring and intrepid soldier. His regiment was afterward ordered from Newbern to join the Army of the Potomac under General Reno, and he participated in all the battles in which his regiment was engaged.

In the battle of Chantilly, September 1st, 1862, Captain Kelton was wounded twice in the knee, and taken prisoner.



CAPT. IRA J. KELTON.

After his leg was amputated by rebel surgeons, he was immediately paroled. He was removed in an ambulance, by a long and tedious route, to Georgetown, where he arrived September 8th, at Seminary Hospital, worn by suffering and exposure. He received the best of care, but there was not vitality enough to rally the exhausted forces of nature, and he died September 21st, 1862.

By his death the country lost one of its heroes, — one whose ambition and eminent merit, close application to the study of his profession, and undaunted courage would have carried him to high rank and honor; had his life been spared.

His remains lie buried in Grove Cemetery and his grave is one of the first to be decorated on each Memorial Day.

REV. GEORGE W. KINNEY.

The Rev. George W. Kinney was born in Preston, Conn., November 26th, 1841. His father, a farmer, was a godly man, with gifts which he often used in preaching as a simple layman. The son had good common school privileges and several terms at a school of higher grade, so that at seventeen he began teaching. At eighteen, while teaching, he began to preach as well, and at nineteen, he took charge of the Baptist Church at Lake's Pond in the town of Waterford, Conn., where he was ordained on his twenty-first birthday, November 26th, 1862. He remained with this church from April 1st, 1861, to March 31st, 1863. He was then pastor at Pittsfield, N. H., until July 3d, 1864, when nervous prostration caused a temporary cessation of work. He was pastor at North Lyme, Conn. from September 1st, 1864, to September 30th, 1867; at Wethersfield, Conn., from October 1st, 1867, to December 31st, 1868; at Holden, from January 1st, 1869, to June 30th, 1871; at New Boston, N. H., from January 1st, 1872, to January 2d, 1876, and at Hudson, N. H., from January 9th, 1876, to April, 1880. At this time general impairment of health, including a

serious affection of the eyes, rendered rest imperative, and accordingly six years were spent on a farm in Pittsfield, N. H. He has since been pastor in Sanbornton, N. H., from March 14th, 1886, to December 31st, 1838, and at Moosup, Conn., from January 1st, 1889, until the present time.

REV. WILLIAM A. LAMB.

The Rev. William A. Lamb was born in Mystic, Conn., in 1844, being descended from a branch of the Lamb family, which has a reputation of bearing ministers. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to the machinist's trade. At the age of twenty-four he was a good workman, and living in New Britain, Conn. At that time he became greatly quickened in divine things, and decided to leave the machine shop and prepare for the pulpit. He was graduated from Andover Theological Seminary in 1873, and seven years later he returned for a year of advanced study. He was ordained at Peabody in 1874, where for a year he took charge of a mission field, which under his labors developed into a church of seventy-two members. He labored at Holden during 1875 and 1876; at Foxboro during 1877 and 1878; at Milford, N. H., from 1878 to 1881, and at Newton from 1884 to 1891. He still resides in Newton.

REV. BENJAMIN HUMPHREY LANE.

The Rev. Benjamin Humphrey Lane was born at Yarmouth, Me., March 8th, 1844. He was educated at the North Yarmouth Academy, the Reed Institute and the Newton Theological Institution. He was graduated from Newton in 1870, and was ordained at Bow, N. H., September 14th, 1870. He has been pastor at Bow, N. H., from 1870 to 1872; at Newton, N. H., from 1872 to 1877; at North Uxbridge from 1877 to 1882; at the Dewey Street Church, Worcester, from 1882 to 1884; at Valley Falls, R. I., from 1884 to 1892, and at Holden since April, 1892.



Yours very truly,
A. H. Loomis

ALONZO KNAPP LEARNED.

Alonzo Knapp Learned, son of John Knapp and Maria Miller Learned, was born in Westminster, April 15th, 1844. He learned the trade of his father, that of a blacksmith. He attended the common schools of his native town, Westminster Academy and Nichols Academy, Dudley. He began teaching at an early age, being employed in his native town for several successive years. As soon as he reached his majority, he was elected a member of the school committee, and was continued in office until his removal from town. He taught in Princeton, Gardner, and was for seven years principal of the Grammar School in Hubbardston. Subsequently, he taught three terms in Rutland, and in 1880 was elected principal of the High School in Holden, a position which he now holds.

REV. JAMES McCLOSKEY.

The Rev. James McCloskey was born in Worcester in February, 1849. After a course of training in the public schools, he entered Holy Cross College, where he spent some time, but his college course was finished at Ottawa College, Ottawa, Canada. His theological course was made at the Seminary of St. Sulpice, at Montreal, Canada, where he was ordained priest in December, 1876. His first appointment was as an assistant to Father Derbuel at West Boylston. He afterwards assisted Father Walsh in Worcester, and did missionary work in West Stockbridge and Milford. He was made first pastor of Holden at the beginning of the year 1886. He resigned in October, 1886, and was appointed pastor at Northboro. Never of a robust constitution, he at last became unable to perform the duties of the ministry, and, giving them up, went in search of health to Denver, Col. He died there of consumption in January, 1890, and was buried in St. John's Cemetery, Worcester.

REV. JOHN D. MCGANN.

The Rev. John D. McGann was born in Milford, September 28th, 1855. After graduating from the Milford High School, he spent a year at Exeter Academy, Exeter, N. H., and then was sent to the Sulpician College and Seminary, Montreal, where he spent six years. He was ordained a priest, December 17th, 1881. His first appointment was to assist Father Doherty at Millbury. He spent three years there, and was then sent to Blackstone, where he remained three years more. He became pastor at Holden, January 23d, 1888.

REV. JAMES W. McLAUGHLIN.

The Rev. James W. McLaughlin was born in Holden, May 23d, 1857. He attended the public schools until 1873. He then took a course at Holy Cross College, after which he spent a year in the Grand Seminary at Montreal, Canada. He then went to the St. Bonaventure Seminary at Allegany, N. Y., from which he was ordained priest in Buffalo, N. Y., June 15th, 1884. After his ordination he was stationed for a short time at South Adams; from there he was transferred to Great Barrington, where he remained one and a half years. He then received an appointment to Chicopee Falls, where he remained about five years, until, on account of failing health, he was obliged to give up his work and go south. He died at Norfolk, Va., February 22d, 1890.

REV. ABEL MANNING.

The Rev. Abel Manning, son of Captain Israel Manning, was born in Sterling, March 14th, 1788, but removed in his boyhood with his parents to Holden. After study at the Holliston Academy, he was graduated from Brown University in the class of 1817. He then studied theology with the celebrated Dr. Emmons at Franklin, and was ordained at Plymouth, Vt., November 7th, 1820. He was pastor at Plymouth, Vt., from 1820 to 1824; Goshen, N. H., 1823 to 1826; Auburn, N. H., 1826 to 1831; Epsom, N. H., 1831 to 1834; Ossipee, N. H., 1834 to 1837; Dartmouth, 1837 to 1838; Goshen, N. H., 1838 to 1841, and Ludlow, Vt., 1842. He lived the rest of his life without pastoral charge at Pembroke, East Concord and Goffstown, N. H., dying of old age, December 20th, 1879.

REV. THOMAS MARSHALL.

The Rev. Thomas Marshall was born in Holden, in 1785. His father¹ was a saddler and harness maker, and after the usual training in the district schools, he learned the same trade and went into business for himself. His shop stood near the corner of the Common. Ability and integrity brought him more than ordinary success. His name was a guarantee of excellent material and thorough workmanship, and his leather pocket-books, in particular, were known throughout New England. In later years, a manufacturing firm offered him a large sum for the privilege of using his name upon their goods, but he declined this offer as a matter of conscience. He married Polly

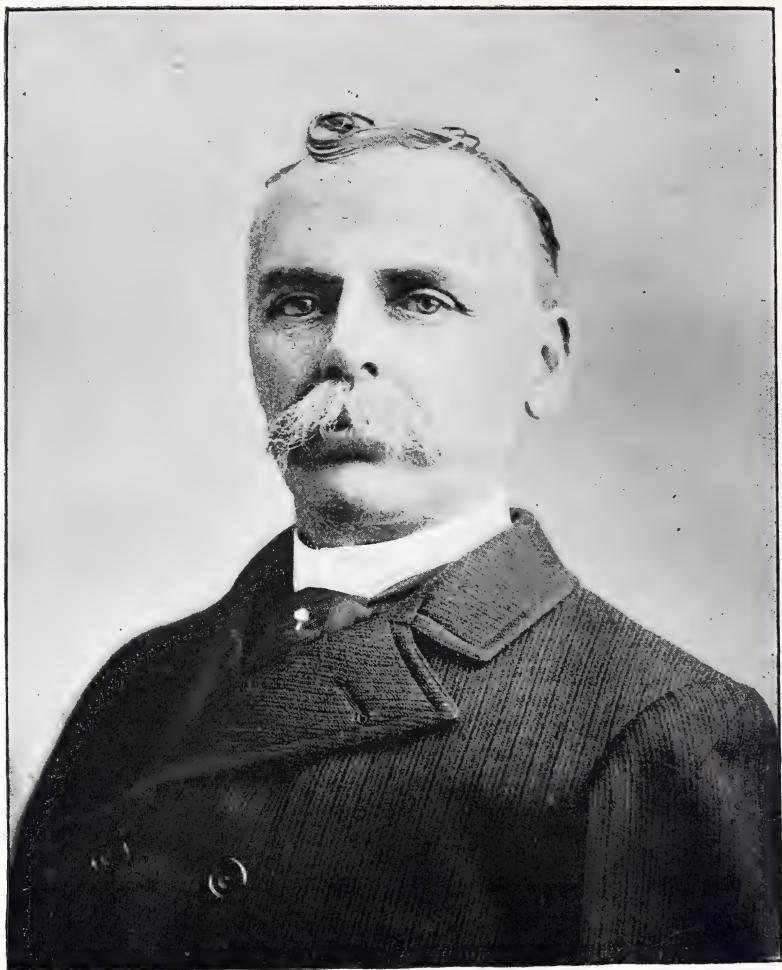
¹ It has not been found possible to ascertain with certainty the name of his father. Mr. William C. Metcalf writes, "The first settlers, brothers, were William, Abel, Timothy, and perhaps Thomas. My impression is that neither Abel nor Timothy was the father of Rev. Thomas Marshall." A daughter writes, "My father's parents were Thomas or Abel Marshall and Lydia Dryden." A niece writes that he was son of Abel Marshall, who long kept the toll-gate near the foot of the hill west of the center.

Yates Manning. They had one son and several daughters, of whom only one still survives.

In youth, he became a member of the Congregational Church, but later, in consequence of changed views, he associated himself with the Baptist Church. He soon felt himself called to preach the gospel, and prepared for this work by private study under the direction of the eminent Dr. Jonathan Going, of Worcester. He was ordained to the ministry, September 15th, 1813. For some years, he dwelt among his own people, preaching part of the time at Holden, and also at West Boylston. About 1818, he removed to Belchertown, and took charge of the Church there. He labored here for six years, at Petersham for another six years, at Royalston for three years, and at Arlington, Vt., for two years. On account of failing health, he then gave up pastoral labor, and removed to Shelburne Falls, to secure better advantages for the education of his children. Here he supported his family by manufacturing pocket-books, and by carrying on a small dry goods store. He never again took a pastorate, although he occasionally supplied churches in the vicinity. His voice, never strong, became weakened by bronchial trouble, which finally terminated in pulmonary consumption. He died in 1842, aged fifty-seven years.

Mr. Marshall was of medium height and fair complexion, with blue eyes. His voice was low, soft and sweet. His manner was composed and mild, but decided. He was a man of much sincerity, independence and force of character. He joined the Baptist Church at considerable pecuniary sacrifice, when it was a weak and struggling body, and later, he was a pioneer in the anti-slavery movement. He had a well-balanced mind, great self-control and equanimity of temper, excellent executive ability and a soundness of judgment that caused his advice to be often sought both in church matters and in the business perplexities of his friends and neighbors. His great recreation was music. All his children were singers, and his only son, Thomas Manning Marshall, was widely known in this state and in southern Vermont as an excellent singer and music teacher.





EDWARD W. MERRICK.

EDWARD W. MERRICK.

Edward W. Merrick, son of Edward and Fanny Clark Merrick, was born in Hubbardston, May 22d, 1843. When about one year old, his parents moved to the town of Princeton, where they resided until he reached the age of fourteen, when they removed to a farm in the southerly part of Rutland, where, until the spring of 1864, he worked on the farm during the summer, and attended the district school during the autumn and winter, as was the almost universal custom at that time.

He then took charge of the large milk farm of Emmons Hubbard, in Springfield, for the season, going from there to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where he entered Eastman's Business College, being graduated in March, 1865. The day following his arrival home, he was engaged as book-keeper by J. Henry Warren, who had charge of Alfred Morse's store, at Eagleville, and held the position until March 29th, 1868, when, in company with his father, he bought the business, which they continued together for three years. He then purchased his father's interest, and continued the business, most of the time alone, until March, 1882. At that time, he closed out his store, and went into the office of the Holden Mills, remaining there four years.

In May, 1886, he entered the employ of the Jefferson Manufacturing Co., as book-keeper and paymaster, where he still remains. In September, 1865, he married Mary A. Chapman, only daughter of Gates and Sophia Chapman. He was elected Constable, in 1869, by a unanimous vote, and has held the office by re-election since that time. He has also served the town as Selectman, and on the School Committee, and has been one of the Assessors for five years, and one of the Overseers of the Poor since 1880. Early in Harrison's administration, he was appointed Postmaster at Jefferson, and in January, 1889, was appointed Deputy Sheriff, both of which offices he still holds.

WILLIAM C. METCALF.

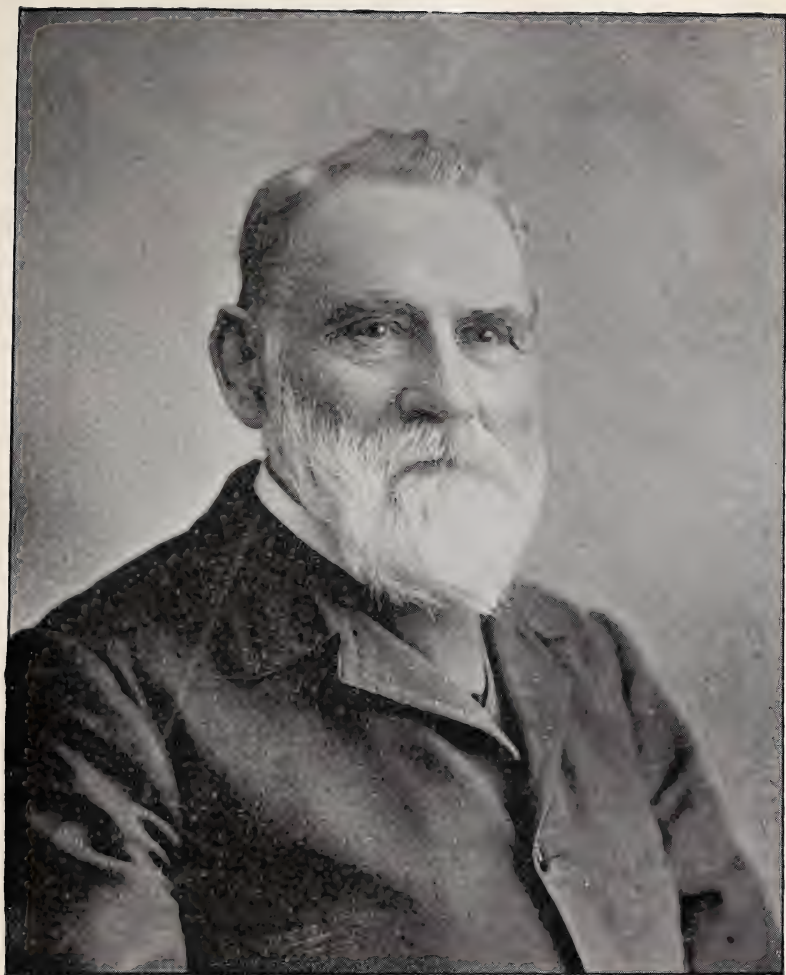
The subject of this sketch, the youngest in a family of eight children, and the seventh son of Jeremiah and Nancy Cobb, of Wrentham, was born May 20th, 1814. When one year old he was adopted by William Metcalf and his wife, and from that time was known as their son, William C. Metcalf.

In his boyhood he attended the public schools, and then had several terms of the select schools, taught in town every fall. He then entered Worcester Academy, of which Rev. Silas Bailey was at that time Principal, and fitted himself for teaching.

His first school was one of four months in North Worcester. It was a large and difficult school, but, though only eighteen years old, he there, as well as in all his other schools, made for himself a good record. He continued teaching till 1854, making a total of thirty terms averaging twelve weeks each. He has been a member of the School Committee of the town for seventeen years, during thirteen of which he was chairman or clerk of the board, or Superintendent. He has always been an advocate of education and of improved conditions for its acquirement.

May 20th, 1839, he married Hannah F. Savage of Princeton. After thirty-seven years of married life, she died October 24th, 1876, leaving two sons and two daughters. One son has since died. Four years later, he married Mrs. Laura S. Weston of Peterboro, N. H., his present wife. Some years after his first marriage, the declining strength of his foster-parents induced them to put their large farm into his hands, which he continued to manage until after the death of his first wife. He then sold his farm to his son and removed to the Center.

He was religiously educated, and these early influences have been manifest in his whole life. January 1st, 1830, he united with the Baptist Church in Holden, of which, after sixty-three years, he is still a member. He has been for thirty-five years clerk of the Church, and was for several years clerk of the



WILLIAM C. METCALF.

Society. He has also been appointed to other offices of labor and trust in the Church and Society, which required patient consideration and prudent action. When six years of age he entered the Sunday-School, so that he can now count over seventy years of membership. He has been a teacher for forty years, and was superintendent for thirteen years. He has compiled a history of the Church from its organization to 1864, and of the Sunday-School from 1820 to 1874. He has always taken a deep interest in church music, and, entering the choir in his youth, he sang there until failing health obliged him to retire.

He has been faithful in the discharge of his duties as a citizen, and in turn has been honored by his fellow citizens. Five years he was one of the Selectmen of the town, being two years chairman of the board; he was an Assessor six years, being chairman two years; in 1856 he was Representative in the State Legislature.

He has kept in mind state and national as well as town affairs, being an anti-slavery man when such were needed, a temperance man then and now; always looking for the right position; always a loyal, national American citizen.

William C. Metcalf has combined in his character some opposite qualities, each of which has served in its turn to help the others. He is facetious, yet sedate; tenacious of his convictions, if not of his opinions, yet liberal; aggressive, yet conservative; companionable, yet retiring. The motto, "Be what you would have the reputation of being," became, by some means, deeply rooted in his mind, and has been to him a restraining and constraining force.

ALBERT A. METCALF.

Albert A. Metcalf is one of the Grangers of Holden who has gained prominence, not only in the local branch of the order, but throughout the State. He was the second son of William C. and Hannah Savage Metcalf, and was born in the south part of the town, October 4th, 1848. All his early years, until he became of age, were spent on his father's farm, where he laid the foundation for his after success in farming. During its sessions, he attended the district school, completing his education with two terms at the old Worcester Academy.

When twenty years of age, thinking himself tired of farm life, Mr. Metcalf left the old homestead and engaged in mechanical work. This kind of business he followed seven years. Mr. Metcalf was married, in 1872, to Emmagene, eldest daughter of Sumner Chamberlain, and lived in the center of the town until 1877, when he purchased the Metcalf farm which has since been his home.

Mr. Metcalf has long been a member of the order of Patrons of Husbandry, and was Master of the Holden Grange for four years. In 1887, he was appointed one of the Deputies of Massachusetts—an office, the duties of which took him to nearly all parts of the State, and thus widely extended the circle of his personal acquaintances.

He has been all his life a Republican, but it was not until 1883 that he began to take a prominent part in local politics. In that year he was elected Moderator of the annual town meeting, and has since held that office each year, save in 1886. He was elected a member of the board of Selectmen in 1884, and acted as clerk of the board. Again in 1887 he was chosen Selectman; also in 1891, 1892 and 1893.

He is a strong temperance man, having been a member of the temperance societies and having always worked to promote the cause as an officer of the town.



ALBERT A. METCALF.



STILLMAN F. MORSE.

STILLMAN F. MORSE.

Stillman F. Morse was born in the town of Putnam, Conn., November 23d, 1857, and in that town he was educated in the common schools and high school. In 1879, he came to Holden, and assumed control of the mill at Eagleville. January 1st, 1888, he became owner of a one-third interest in the plant, which was run under the style of the Holden Mills. In 1891, he also opened a stove store. In March, 1893, all the real estate of the Holden Mills was transferred to the Jefferson Manufacturing Co. Mr. Morse retains his residence, but has as yet no plans for future business. He has served the town as Overseer of the Poor, 1888, as Auditor, 1889, and as a member of the Board of Selectmen, 1890 to 1892, of which body he was Chairman in 1891 and 1892. At the celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town, he was president of the day. In the fall of 1891, he was elected a member of the House of Representatives, and at the organization of the Legislature he was appointed by the Speaker to the chairmanship of the committee on public service. Mr. Morse is a member of the Home Market Club, and was prominent in the old Tenth Congressional District Committee. He was the chairman of the building committee of the new school-house at Jefferson. A strong temperance man, he has rendered earnest service in behalf of law and order, and good government. Mr. Morse is an active worker in religious circles, and is identified with the Baptist Church of the town, and was the superintendent of its Sunday-School in 1891 and 1892.

WILLIAM POMEROY PAINE, D. D.

William Pomeroy Paine, D. D., pastor of the Congregational Church in Holden for forty-three years, was born in Ashfield, August 1st, 1802. He was graduated from Amherst College, in 1827, where he served as tutor for the year 1830-1831. He was graduated from Andover Theological Seminary in 1832.

His first invitation to the pastorate at Holden was declined, but after some months, the invitation was renewed, and finally accepted, his ordination taking place October 24th, 1833. From this time, his life was identified with the history of the church and the town which he served. We may not unfitly apply to Dr. Paine the sentiment which he himself expressed, in language that needs little change to fit it to his own case, at the semi-centennial celebration of his neighbor and friend, Dr. Nelson, of Leicester: "When the labors of a good man are drawing to a close, we are much inclined to look to the past for points of chief interest. But, inasmuch as the future will be infinitely longer than the past, and a good man's labor but begins to be felt when it is finished, we ought not to be exclusively, if mainly, occupied, on occasions like this, in memories. Our brother, though worn and weary with earthly toil, has but begun to live, and his works will follow him. His influence, even in this place, has but begun to be felt. To the present time, it has extended to less than two generations. But who can tell how many generations shall pass before it shall die out?"

The number of years which his pastorate counted, and the fact that, during the whole of his long career, from his ordination to his death, he never had or looked to any other work, show sufficiently that his was a stable ministry. When he was settled, the ministry in New England had already begun to itinerate; the changes in town, during his incumbency, were many, and, to the heart of the aged pastor, saddening, and yet, in patient strength, he stood to the end in his stable ministry. His was an influential ministry. To the present generation,



WILLIAM P. PAINE, D. D.

from whose minds has not departed the distinct memory of the power which he wielded in town, it is needless to tell of his influence. It should also be noted that his influence extended far beyond the narrow limits of his own township. It is rare that the pastor in a little place like Holden exerts in religious and educational circles an influence so wide-spread and strong as was his. His was also a fruitful ministry. Emphatically, he desired and was blessed with revivals. The story of the "ten distinct and precious seasons of special religious interest" has already been told in the history of the church. Of only second importance was the renovation and beautifying of the house of worship, with which he was permitted to crown his work.

In religious belief, he was most soundly orthodox, but while holding his own views of truth strongly and tenaciously, it was in no narrow or bigoted spirit. On the contrary, he was peculiarly tolerant of the views of others. He was at once very orthodox in faith and very liberal in spirit.

The temper of his mind was remarkably judicial. This fact rendered his judgment and advice of great value to the many who were constantly coming to him for counsel on all sorts of subjects, a confidence which his highly sympathetic nature especially invited.

He was pre-eminently a Christian gentleman. Unselfishness, gentleness and thoughtfulness marked not only his home life, but also his intercourse with all whom he met in all relations of life. Cheerful and bright himself, he delighted to contribute to the happiness of all about him.

In personal appearance, he was slightly above medium height, rather slender, seemingly not robust, although during most of his life his health was good. His carriage was dignified. His eyes were gray, and his features rather marked. He had a fine bass voice, was an especially fine reader and a good singer and was very fond of music.

His death, which occurred November 28th, 1876, was due to slow and gradual breaking down from old age, its immediate

cause being a disease of the lungs from which he suffered but a short time.

He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from his *alma mater* in 1856. He was also Trustee of the same college from 1854 until his death, at which time there were only two members of the board whose term of service was longer than his own. He also served for many years as Trustee of the Leicester Academy.

June 11th, 1834, he married Sarah Mack, of Plainfield, who died October 3d, 1868. Dr. Paine most fitly said of his wife in the sermon on his fortieth anniversary: "She who was my friend was your friend too. She loved you, and it was her delight to help you. When she came to labor amid these scenes, she most cheerfully left a condition which, in a worldly aspect, would seem highly attractive to one seeking only ease and pleasure. Her service for Christ and for you was vastly more satisfactory to her than would have been a position of less responsibility and more affluence, independence and display. She had an ardent attachment to whatever related to Christ and his kingdom, and was fervently devoted to that which pertained to the interests, temporal and spiritual, of her fellow beings, and most especially of yourselves. I will not enlarge upon her qualities of mind and heart which gave her a place so large and essential in the family circle, and rendered her such a priceless wife and mother. I make this brief utterance the more freely because I know that my words are being heard by those who knew her well, and knew her best." Their children were:

Sarah Louisa, born July 22d, 1836.

William Frederick, born April 27th, 1839.

Sarah Cornelia, born January 1st, 1841.

Laura Mack, born February 19th, 1843.

Arthur Richards, born May 9th, 1846.

Charles Pomeroy, born May 26th, 1851.

¹ Sermon on his Fortieth Anniversary, p. 19.

Respecting three of the above named, Dr. Paine made the following record : " Our eldest child, Sarah Louisa, died June 20th, 1840, at the age of four years, after a sickness of two years. Our second child, William Frederick, died September 23d, 1851, after a distressing sickness of only four days, at the age of twelve years. Our youngest child, Charles Pomeroy, died January 20th, 1854, after a sickness of two days, at the age of nearly three years."¹

The second daughter, Sarah Cornelia, died February 5th, 1862, at the age of twenty-one years. The following tribute appeared at the time : " The sudden death of one so lovely and so beloved, so gifted with all that makes life beautiful and promising, has sent a thrill of deep pain to many hearts beyond her own family circle. During the last year, she has been teaching at Wheaton Female Seminary, at Norton, where, two summers since, she graduated with the highest honors of her class. The motto of her valedictory essay, ' As Seeing the Invisible,' and her touching and appropriate treatment of the subject will ever be remembered by her school associates as illustrating her own life and character. Sensitively alive to all the attractions of nature, of friendship, of human knowledge, with her the earthly was only a medium for the heavenly, and to be with her was to breathe the atmosphere of a better world."² Her father said of her : " Her organization was extremely delicate and sensitive, too much so for an uninterrupted state of quiet and equanimity. Her religious principles had great depth and control during her brief life, yet long enough, may I say it, to make its mark. She loved most fervently that which is noble and elevating and pure, and hated with a perfect hatred all that is unworthy and false. She was endowed with the gift of poetry, and a love for all that is beautiful ; was fervently attached to literature and science, in the pursuit of which, I think I may justly say, she greatly excelled. But she loved the kingdom of God more. Her last words were, to those who watched around her dying couch, ' Live in the truth.' The truth she ardently

¹ Sermon on his Twenty-fifth Anniversary, p. 12.

² Copied from the *Taunton Gazette* in the *Spy*, February 26th, 1862.

loved, she tried to live in it, and if her days had been many on the earth, I feel assured that this would have been her aim and effort."¹

The second son, Arthur Richards, was graduated from Amherst, in the class of 1871; received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, from Columbia College in 1875, and resides in Brooklyn, N. Y., engaged in the active practice of his profession. His sister, Miss Laura M. Paine, resides with him.

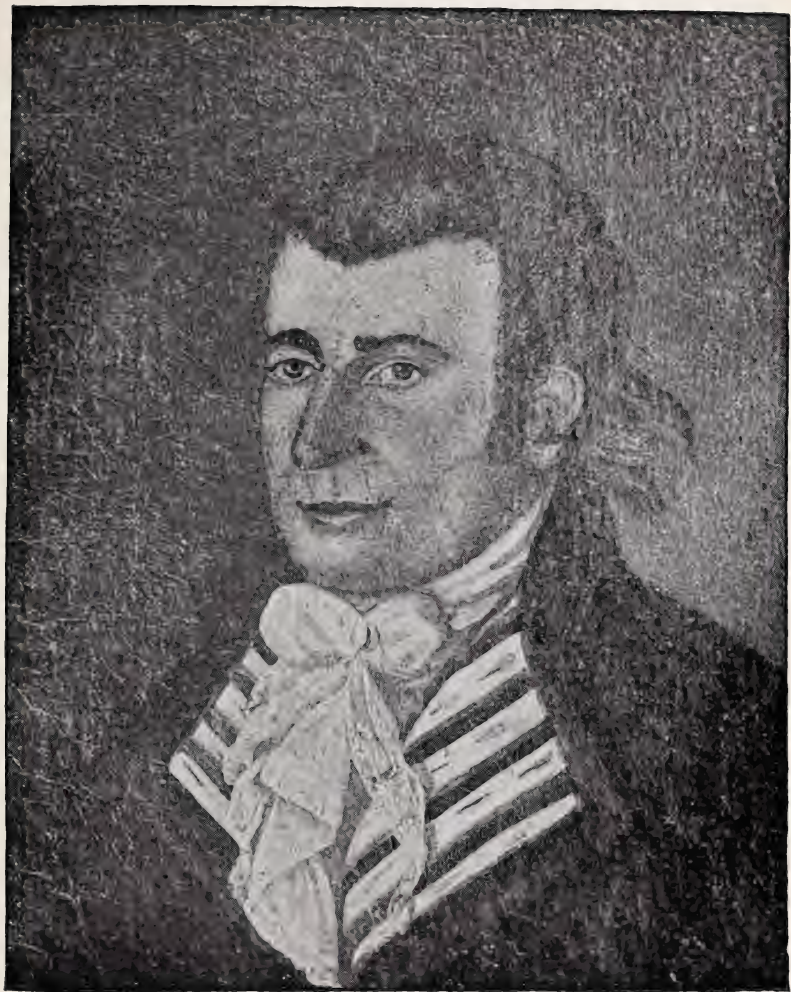
AARON PARKER.

The Parker family of Holden is descended from an ancient and worthy family which has always been actively and prominently connected with the history of England. The immigrant ancestor of the Holden Parkers was Thomas Parker, who at the age of thirty sailed from London, March 11th, 1635, with the company which filled the ships "Susan" and "Ellen," fitted out by Sir Richard Saltonstall, Lord Mayor of London. It is tradition that he was connected by marriage with the Saltonstall family, and it is probable that his lineage ran back to the ancient Parker line of Browsholme, England.² Thomas Parker settled first at Lynn, later removing to Reading, and became an influential and prominent citizen and an extensive land-owner.

Two brothers, Amos and Jonas, descendants of Thomas Parker in the fourth generation through his second son, Hannaniah, came to Holden in 1745. Amos bought of William Nichols, a tanner, a tract of land comprising sixty-five acres, with buildings on it. In 1750, however, he purchased an estate in Shrewsbury, and removed thither. Six of his seven sons were in the Revolutionary War, the eldest of whom, Amos, was born in Holden. Jonas, born February 6th, 1722, came to

¹ Sermon on his Thirtieth Anniversary, pp. 24, 25.

² For fuller discussion of this and many other points of genealogical interest, see Parker History, now being published by Theodore Parker, Worcester.



AARON PARKER.

Holden immediately upon his marriage, and bought a farm and sawmill on Cedar Swamp brook. He soon returned to Lexington, and was one of the typical minute-men, in the times that tried men's souls. In fact the family were all staunch patriots. Their marked characteristics were strict integrity, unflinching loyalty to their sense of duty, sound common sense and a firm resistance to British oppression.¹ Many members of the family took prominent part in the war. Captain John Parker, who led the minute-men, was a cousin of Jonas, and a brother and nephew were also in the fight. Jonas himself lived next door to the patriot minister, Rev. Jonas Clark, whose house was the destination of Paul Revere, in his famous ride. Edward Everett thus describes his death: "History does not furnish an example of bravery that outshines that of Jonas Parker. A truer heart did not bleed at Thermopylæ. Parker was often heard to say, that, be the consequences what they might, and let others do what they pleased, he would never run from the enemy. He was as good as his word,—better. Having loaded his musket, he placed his hat, containing his ammunition, on the ground between his feet, in readiness for a second charge. At the second fire he was wounded, and sank upon his knees, and in this condition, discharged his gun. While loading it again," [refusing the offer of his nephew, who tried to help him to retreat], "upon his knees, and striving in the agonies of death to redeem his pledge, he was transfixed by a bayonet; and thus died on the spot where he first stood and fell."²

Timothy Parker, Jr., a son of Timothy, grandson of Nathaniel, and great grandson of Thomas Parker, the first

¹The patriotism of the family is illustrated by the behavior of Jonathan Parker, a brother of Timothy, Jr. Having occasion to go to Boston for a load of manure for his farm, he secreted in his load two cannon which the patriots desired to hide away from possible seizure by the British, a neighbor doing the same kindly office for two more. These guns were heard from next at Bunker Hill, and after doing duty through the war, were returned to the State, and two of them may now be seen at the top of Bunker Hill Monument. The same Jonathan was one of the men who, disguised as Indians, threw overboard the tea in Boston Harbor.

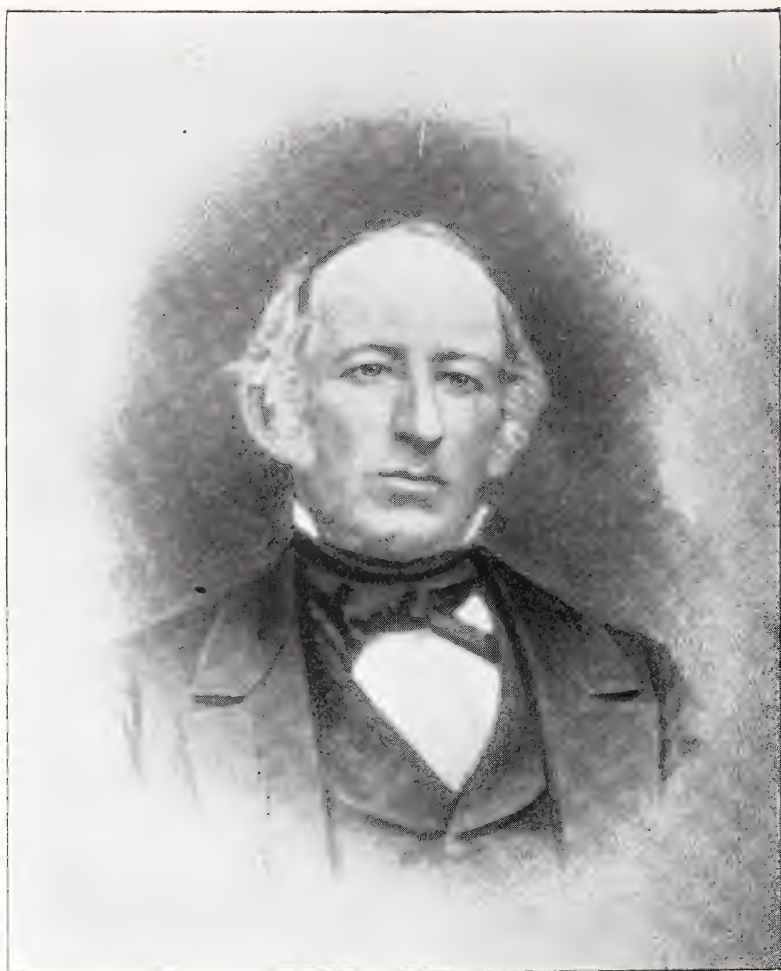
²Oration on "The Battle of Lexington," delivered at Lexington, April 20th, 1835.

immigrant, permanently settled in Holden about 1792, when about fifty-eight years of age. In early manhood, he raised a company and went out in the French and Indian war, at first as Lieutenant, and then as Captain, and was at Kingston, Canada, when it fell into the hands of the British and American forces. He was successful in his affairs and became "well off." He lived first at Jamaica Plain, then at Sturbridge, and finally removed, in 1792, to Holden, where he lived till his death, November 28th, 1809. In the Registry of Deeds, we read, under date of March 12th, 1792: "I Arron White of Roxbury in the Co. of Norfolk, yeoman, in consideration of a hundred and forty pounds paid me by Timothy Parker, Gentleman, quit claim unto said Timothy all right title," etc., unto a farm "350 acres more or less and all the buildings thereon" in "the East end of said Holden," also, a wall pew in said Holden meeting-house, the second pew on the left hand of the front door. It was in the vicinity of this place that lime was discovered, and the settlements in the neighborhood are supposed to have been the first in town. He married Margaret White, of Brookline, by whom he had eleven children.

Aaron Parker was the eldest child of Timothy Parker, Jr., and was born December 13th, 1767. He came to Holden before his father, formed a partnership with his cousin, Aaron White, and kept a store in the house so long owned and occupied by him as a homestead, and still standing in good repair. He died October 7th, 1811, his death being caused by a bruise in the palm of his hand from the use of a spike-pole in raising a barn on the Timothy Parker place. April 2d, 1794, he married Ruth Smith, who was born in Worcester, October 8th, 1768, and died October 17th, 1852. Their children were:

Henry, born February 12th, 1795; died May 27th, 1799.

Aaron, Jr., born October 10th, 1796; married, May 29th, 1823, Asenath Raymond, who died March 27th, 1856; had nine children, of whom Aaron served in Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment, and also as Lieutenant in the Thirty-sixth Regiment of colored troops, and J. Raymond served as Sergeant



HENRY PARKER.

in Company D, First Minnesota Regiment, participating in thirty-four engagements; died May 4th, 1840.

George S., born August 22d, 1798; died July 1st, 1821.

Henry, born February 24th, 1800; died March 31st, 1854.

Elizabeth, born September 2d, 1802; died October 24th, 1822.

Timothy, born August 31st, 1804; married, September 15th, 1833, Lois Pollard Fiske, who was born March 17th, 1806, and died April 28th, 1893; had ten children, the eldest of whom, David Fiske Parker, removed to Worcester, where he became an enterprising and prominent citizen, always retaining, however, an interest in the affairs of his native town; died July 7th, 1869.

Mary, born July 1st, 1806; married, September 15th, 1833, Horatio W. Paine; had one child, Mary Janette Paine, who was born April 12th, 1840, was graduated from the Framingham Normal School, taught several years in Holden and elsewhere, and died in Geneva, N. Y., October 26th, 1892, leaving by will the greater part of her property to the Holden Congregational Church, of which her parents and herself had been members, as a memorial; died November 29th, 1880.

Ruth, born October 7th, 1808; married the Rev. Albert Worthington; had three children; died April 17th, 1871.

Naomi, born May 4th, 1811; died September 28th, 1813.

HENRY PARKER.

Henry Parker was the son of Aaron and Ruth Smith Parker, and was born in Holden, February 24th, 1800. His father died when he was but eleven years old. Improving all the advantages which were open to him, he became a successful teacher. He especially excelled in penmanship, his handwriting being almost equal to copper-plate engraving, and he

traveled extensively in the western states as a teacher of the art. When he returned to the east, he built a house, store and cabinet shop in Millbury, which property he owned and occupied for several years after marriage, and where his four eldest children were born. Selling out his plant there in 1834, he came to Holden and occupied, for three and a half years, the old homestead. He then bought the Artemus Bartlett place, now occupied by his son, Charles E. He again went west and selected a quarter section in Illinois, which was then the "Far West," intending to locate his young family upon it, but a severe attack of chills and fever, following his third trip west, dampened his enthusiasm for immediate removal.

His faith in the future of the great west was unbounded. The struggle was then fierce between the friends and the foes of the slave power, in regard to the extension of its domain. The south was jubilant over the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. He saw the only way to prevent the extension of slavery, namely, to fill the territory with actual settlers from the northern states. He issued a call "to all [who are] opposed to the extension of slavery and would like to form colonies to emigrate to the west," to meet at the City Hall, Worcester, Tuesday, April 18th, 1854. This call was signed "Plebeian," and published in the *Daily Spy*, March 21st, 1854, editors favorable to the scheme being asked to copy. Great interest was aroused, the press heartily endorsed the "important movement," and forty or fifty delegates from towns in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island were present at the meeting. Hon. John Milton Earle called the meeting to order, and stated that the sudden death of the one who had issued the call had prevented the making of any arrangements. The meeting, however, organized. Letters, warmly approving the plan, were read from Charles Sumner, Horace Greeley and Joshua R. Giddings, resolutions were passed and other conventions followed. The movement, thus begun, resulted in the sending of colonies to Kansas and Nebraska, and thus contributed not a little to the settlement of the slavery question. The fact that his name was not signed to the call which he

issued, unfortunately prevented Mr. Parker from receiving the credit which he deserved.

April 9th, 1828, he married Matilda, daughter of Deacon Moses Perry, of Worcester, who was born April 4th, 1805, and died October 16th, 1860. Their children were :

Emeline Matilda, born April 13th, 1829; died April 16th, 1843.

Elizabeth, born June 23d, 1830; died September 21st, 1853.

Henry Baxter, born November 30th, 1831; married in Chicago, Ill., September 18th, 1856, Hannah Maria Caldwell; settled in Northfield; has had seven children. His eldest son, Arthur Henry Parker, resided in Holden for a time, and married, April 20th, 1886, Alice Edson Stone, who was born April 28th, 1865, and died December 9th, 1890.

Charles Edwin, born October 20th, 1833.

Theodore, born November 10th, 1835; married, June 28th, 1869, Nannie Vinnedge; died in Lawrence, Kan., 1871, leaving one child.

Amelia, born December 9th, 1837; married, December 18th, 1862, Isaac Hildreth; has two children.

Alfred, born February 17th, 1840; died March 22d, 1840.

Edward, born November 1st, 1841; enlisted in Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment, being mustered in September 27th, 1861; participated in the following engagements: Roanoke Island, Newbern, Kingston, Gum Swamp, Port Walthal, Arrowfield Church, Drury's Bluff, Cold Harbor, and in the trenches in front of Petersburg from June to September, 1864; was mustered out October 20th, 1864; returned to Tennessee in Quartermaster's Department; was honorably discharged at the end of the war, and has received a pension for injuries received. He married, in 1865, Mary Augusta Chenery, who died September 17th, 1874, having had four children; May 7th, 1879, he married Hattie Louisa Mee, who has had two children.

Matilda, born January 6th, 1844; was graduated from the Westfield Normal School; married, October 5th, 1877, the Rev. George Morris; lives now on Catalina Islands, Cal.; has four children.

Freeman, born September 10th, 1846; died October 8th, 1846.

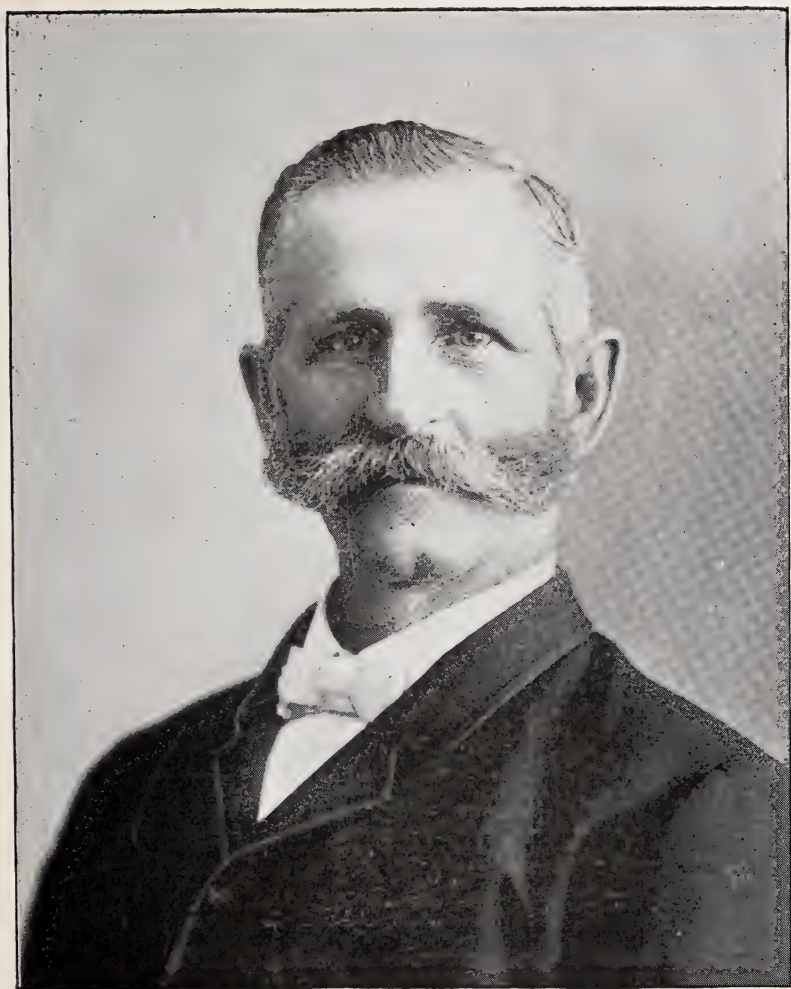
Gilbert, born July 28th, 1848; married, September 13th, 1870, Jennett Sophia Palmer; has two children.

Gilman, twin with last named; married, December 30th, 1869, Angela Maria Morey. They have two children.

CHARLES E. PARKER.

Charles Edwin Parker, son of Henry Parker, and descended in the sixth generation from Deacon Thomas Parker, the immigrant, was born in Millbury, October 20th, 1833. When he was about one year old, his father sold out his store and cabinet shop in Millbury, and returned to the old homestead. About three years later he bought the Bartlett farm, and removed his family thither, and here the uneventful life of Mr. Parker has been passed.

When about seventeen years of age, together with his brother Henry and sister Elizabeth, he attended Leicester Academy for two terms, returning in the summer to assist his father. The following fall and winter, he attended school in Amherst, and later the Westfield Academy. He taught school in West Boylston and also in Westboro. In the spring of 1853, he let himself to learn the carpenter's trade, laboring at that through the summer. In the winter, he taught school, and in the spring of 1854, went back to the same employment. But, upon the death of his father, March 31st, he returned home to assist his mother in the care of the family of six, the two youngest being but five and a half years old, and to carry on the farm. By hard work and persistent energy, united with good judgment and common sense, he has improved his farm



Chas. E. Parker

and made it one of the best, averaging well in productiveness with any in town. In 1873, he built a greenhouse, and has since done a little business in that line.

In 1886, Mr. Parker was chosen on the School Committee, and has served the town in that capacity for seven years. In 1885 and 1886, he served as Assessor. In 1888, he was secretary of the committee on the dedication of the Damon Memorial, and was chosen one of the first Board of Trustees, serving by re-election till 1893. In 1885, 1888, 1889 and 1890 he served as Selectman, the last year as chairman of the board. In 1885, in behalf of the selectmen, he effected a loan with the Worcester County Savings Bank for \$34,000, the selectmen and treasurer giving seventeen notes of \$2,000 each, at four per cent., for which, however, the town received a premium of \$646, so that the actual rate of interest was only three and three-fourths per cent., making a saving of interest, as shown by the report accepted by the town in 1886, amounting to \$1,200 annually. In 1889, he was chosen chairman of a committee to investigate the care of the poor. After considerable inquiry, co-operation in the care of the poor was recommended, and the overseers of the poor of adjoining towns were invited to meet in conference. As a result, a Poor Farm Association was formed, consisting of Holden, Hubbardston, Paxton and Princeton; Oakham and Westminster joining later. This has proved a very economical and satisfactory method of caring for the poor; the saving to the town being nearly \$1,200 a year, with no diminution of the comforts of those cared for. The three years for which the Association was formed expiring by limitation in April, 1893, at the meeting held in November, 1892, Mr. Parker was chosen chairman of a committee to form a new Association for five years from the first of April, 1893, which was accomplished, and papers were signed in January. In 1890, he was appointed by Governor Brackett a Justice of the Peace.

He married, November 21st, 1861, Adelaide S. Collier, of Worcester, daughter of Francis A. and Eliza Collier. Their children are :

Samuel Perry, born December 30th, 1862; married Isabella A. Thomas, in South Carolina, December 4th, 1884; is now settled in West Boylston. They have three children.

Jennie Mabel, born June 12th, 1864.

Frank Carleton, born August 10th, 1867.

Florence, born June 25th, 1870; died August 13th, 1870.

Charles Henry, born July 10th, 1871.

Alice Louise, born September 28th, 1873.

ANDREW POLLARD, D. D.

Andrew Pollard, D. D., was born October 7th, 1814, in the town of Harvard, from which place his parents removed to Winchendon when he was two and a half years old. At the age of eighteen, he began studies with the intent of entering the legal profession, and, after a preparatory course, he entered the office of E. G. Loring, a distinguished practitioner of Boston. Converted early in life, he had united with a Congregational Church. His views having changed, May 31st, 1838, he was baptized into the fellowship of the Baptist Church in Winchendon. He preached his first sermon on the next Sunday after his baptism. Soon after beginning his course of theological reading, which he pursued under private tuition, he was induced to accept a call to settle at South Gardner, where he was ordained May 1st, 1839, about two years after giving up the study of the law.

August 12th, 1840, he began his labors in Holden, where he remained until April 1st, 1843. For the next six years, he was pastor in Hyannis. In 1849, he became pastor at Taunton, which position he held till 1872. He was then pastor of the Fourth Street Baptist Church, South Boston, from 1872 to 1874. From 1874 until his death, August 21st, 1886, he was District Secretary for New England of the American Baptist Publication Society.

He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Brown University in 1863.

"Dr. Pollard was a man in whom was exemplified a high type of Christian manliness. Pure in heart and in life, benevolent in spirit, striving to do good unto all men, and especially to such as were of the household of faith."¹

REV. CYRUS MURDOCK PERRY.

The Rev. Cyrus Murdock Perry, son of Deacon Cyrus Perry, was born October 5th, 1839. He was graduated from Leicester Academy in 1857, from Amherst College in 1862, and from the Union Theological Seminary in 1865. He was ordained at Holden, March 28th, 1865, and served as Chaplain of the Twenty-fourth New York Cavalry from April 3d to August 3d of that year. He has been pastor of Presbyterian churches at North Gage, N. Y., from 1866 to 1868, and at Jordan, N. Y., from 1868 to 1872, and of Congregational churches at Southwick from 1872 to 1877; at Pembroke, N. H., from 1877 to 1879; at the West Church, Concord, N. H., from 1879 to 1882; at Slatersville, R. I., from 1882 to 1888; at South Brewer, Me., from 1888 to 1891, and at Keene Valley, N. Y., till the present time.

REV. WILBUR RAND.

The Rev. Wilbur Rand was born in Morrisville, Vt., May 27th, 1856. He was graduated, fitted for college, from the Morrisville Academy in May, 1872. He then taught school and did other work until 1879, when he went to the Bangor Theological Seminary, from which he was graduated in 1882. He went at once to his first pastorate at Barnet, Vt., where he was ordained and installed May 9th, 1883. After two years at Barnet, he labored for a year at Waldoboro, Me., and having spent a year in a tour around the world, labored for a year at Holden, from April, 1887 to April, 1888. He was then pastor at Cummington from 1888 to 1891. He is now pastor at Brimfield.

¹ Minutes of the Conference of Baptist Ministers in Massachusetts, 1886.

MERRILL RICHARDSON, D. D.

Merrill Richardson, D. D., was born in Holden in 1812. His early years were spent on a farm. His preparation for college was made in part at an academy at Middlebury, Vt., and then entering Middlebury College, he was graduated with honor in the class of 1835. He pursued the study of Theology at New Haven. His first settlement was at Terryville, Conn., where he labored from 1841 to 1846. He then became actively engaged in the work of promoting and elevating common school education in the state of Connecticut. While thus engaged, he supplied the church at Durham in the years 1847 and 1848. He was resettled at Terryville in May, 1849, and remained until January, 1858. He was then called to Worcester, and installed over the Salem Street Church at the beginning of 1858. After about thirteen years of service here, ill-health forced his resignation. He rested for a time, and then entered upon a brief pastorate of the New England Church in New York City. In 1872, he was installed pastor of the church at Milford, where he labored until his death. His last sermon was preached the last Sunday of August, 1876. During the preceding winter and spring there had been unusual religious interest in his congregation and he had labored incessantly. Throughout the summer he felt an uncommon sense of fatigue, and early in September, symptoms of Bright's disease appeared. From that time he rapidly failed, dying December 12th, 1876.

Dr. Richardson was a strong man, in body, soul and spirit. His sympathies were broad and deep. He was a Christian abolitionist, an active patriot during the Civil War, and ever a philanthropist. He enjoyed pastoral work, rarely taking a vacation, rather carrying other men's burdens during the summer season. He delighted in study and in preaching; his pulpit was his throne. He was a happy, useful and successful minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

ALBERT BROWN ROBINSON, M. D.

Albert Brown Robinson, M. D., was born in Pelham, April 12th, 1835. His academical studies were pursued at Monson. He was graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo, N. Y., February, 1857. He practiced at Amherst until the following December, when he removed to Holden. In the autumn of 1857, he married Susan L. Chenery, the great-granddaughter of Dr. Isaac Chenery, granddaughter of Dr. Thaddeus Chenery, daughter of Cyrus and Mary T. Chenery and niece by marriage of Dr. David Davis, who married a daughter of Dr. Thaddeus Chenery. He continued the practice of medicine until August, 1862, when he was commissioned Assistant Surgeon of the Tenth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, to serve in the war of the Rebellion. In May following, he was promoted to be Surgeon of the same regiment. At the expiration of the three years service of the regiment, he was honorably discharged, and was at once commissioned Surgeon of the Forty-second Regiment, with which he served till the expiration of its term.

In April, 1865, he removed to Roxbury, now Boston, and was appointed Dispensary Physician. He has since been Professor of Surgery in the New England Female Medical College, Surgeon to the Grand Army of the Republic, and Examiner to Insurance companies. He is a member of the Norfolk District Medical Society, of the Massachusetts Medical Society, of the Washington Lodge of Freemasons, and of several other secret bodies. Dr. Robinson still continues in the active practice of his profession in Boston.

SYLVANUS B. ROEL.

The following inscription upon a monument in Grove Cemetery perpetuates the memory of a much loved teacher :

SYLVANUS B. ROEL,
BORN IN
DUMMERSTON, VT. NOV. 3,
1827—A GRADUATE OF AM-
HERST COLLEGE—A MEMBER
OF ANDOVER THEOL. SEM.—
CONSECRATED TO MISSIONARY
LABOR AMONG THE HEATHEN—
A TEACHER OF A HIGH-SCHOOL
IN THIS PLACE FOR THREE SUC-
CESSIVE AUTUMNS, DIED,
WHILE THUS EMPLOYED, SEPT. 17,
1854, AGED 26 YEARS.

He was loved most by those who knew him best.

As a slight expression of their respect and affection for their beloved teacher, his pupils have erected and enclosed this monument in this new cemetery, wherein never man before was laid.



COL. ISAAC N. ROSS.

JAMES T. ROOD, M. D.

James T. Rood, M. D., was born in Jericho, Vt., December 21st, 1834. He received his medical diploma from a school in Montpelier, Vt., and settled in Holden in 1858, where he remained till 1860, when he removed to Rutland. He was commissioned, August 11th, 1862, Assistant Surgeon of the Twenty-eighth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers. His health became broken in the service, and on account of sickness he was honorably discharged, November 23d, 1862. On his return from the army, he settled in Brookfield, where he remained about six years. After a winter spent in the hospitals of New York City, he returned to Holden, where he continued in practice until his death, which took place October 26th, 1875.

ISAAC NEWTON ROSS.

Isaac Newton Ross, eldest son of Isaac and Olive Tenney Ross, was born in Hanover, N. H., August 22d, 1824. His ancestry was in fine Scotch and English lines, with coats of arms and traditions of doughty deeds. His youth was passed on a rocky New Hampshire farm, with much wholesome work and some play. One of the great influences upon his life at this time was the neighborhood library, of few books, but solid; five-volume Macaulay, Gibbon's Rome, Allison's Europe, were the literary food of a boy then, and so well did he digest this meat for men, that in after life he was never at a loss for an apposite historical reference, and could quote *ad libitum*. He attributed his grasp of affairs to the mental discipline thus acquired. His chief recreation was angling, that pursuit of all gentle natures.

January 1st, 1851, he married Maria Wright, of the same town. Later they moved to Ohio, going much of the way by boat, a tedious trip of many days. He engaged in business in

Darbyville, Pickaway County, Ohio, the center of a rich farming country. Three children came to the home, one dying in infancy. He lived there till the Civil War.

In 1861, he was elected to the legislature for two terms, but seeing a sterner duty, he left this office after the first session, to engage in raising men for the army. Eleven hundred men were enrolled in about two weeks, largely through his personal popularity. He was commissioned Colonel of one of the resulting regiments, the Ninetieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

The regiment went into camp at Circleville, the county seat, for drill and equipment, the Colonel's commission being dated on his birthday ; but so great was the haste that one company received its guns only on the 28th of August, when the regiment started for the front, and this company took its first squad drill under the fire of the enemy three days later in Kentucky. The old Ninetieth was never a kid-gloved regiment. The hardest of service was theirs from the first. At Lexington, on the 31st of August, the regiment met General Nelson's army in retreat, and with that army, made forced marches to Louisville, seventy miles. The Army of the Cumberland was reorganized under the command of General Buell, and by continual skirmish endeavored to drive the combined armies of Generals Bragg, Kirby Smith and Breckenridge. The Ninetieth formed the extreme right of the line.

This skirmishing continued till October 8th, when the rebels made a stand at Perryville. The day before this engagement, the Ninetieth marched over twenty-five miles, over very rough roads, without food or water, scores falling by the way. Though the Colonel had two horses, he walked much of the way to relieve his suffering men.

On the morning of this fight, the regiment marched double quick for over two miles to gain a necessary position, and wheeled into line of battle on the run. After the long day's fight, lasting till nightfall, the men bivouacked on their arms. The enemy, escaping in the night, left the Union forces in possession of the field. The retreat of the enemy was toward Cumberland Gap.

At Crab Orchard, Colonel Ross fell ill, and was seriously ill for over three weeks. When he started to join his regiment, he was still so feeble the surgeons and his superior officers besought him not to go, but he grimly replied that he would be with his regiment in its first great battle or die marching toward it. Much of the way he went on foot, the railroads being destroyed.

Words cannot tell the sufferings of officers and men in those next weeks, sleeping in fence corners, frozen down so that one had to be raised by force in the morning, drinking water from hog wallows, breaking one's teeth on hard tack, and glad of too little of that.

The three days battle of Stone River, December 31st, 1862, and January 1st and 2d, 1863, was the next and last important battle in which Colonel Ross was engaged. His regiment saved two cannon which the drivers had run against trees in a thick wood. Colonel Ross with that strong left hand of his lifted one by the tire, and helped drag the two out, giving them to the First Ohio Battery. For this and other deeds, Colonel Ross received flattering mention in the official reports. At the close of the first day's contest, Colonel Ross found himself in command of portions of ten regiments, so great had been the slaughter.

A fragment of spent shell hit him on the right side, the primary cause, he always thought, of the long years of suffering he experienced.

On the last day of the fight, General Rosecrans sent word to Colonel Ross that his regiment held the key to the whole position, and if it could be held for half an hour the end was sure. Word was sent back that the position should be held. It was, and the field was ours. Colonel Ross was left for dead on the field, and after two days exposure, was found and carried off by his colored servant, thus saving his life.

This was the end of his active service, brief in time but important in results. His health failing utterly, he was compelled to resign in March, 1863, and was never able to return. Indeed,

the ill effects followed him ever after, and without doubt shortened his life.

Returning East, he went into business in Greenfield, then in Worcester, hence his selection of a home in Holden, in 1867. His first public work here was in connection with the re-survey of the Boston, Barre & Gardner Railroad. The intelligent, far-seeing men of the town found that this road must touch the manufacturing villages of the town, if it was to prove any real gain to the town. The survey was made and accepted, and the road built.

Soon after this road was opened, he was elected to the State Legislature for two terms, an unprecedented honor in the district. This was the only public office in the gift of the town which he ever held. Partly from modesty and distaste for it, and partly from a throat trouble, he never spoke much in public, but he was a sagacious worker, and by his executive ability, good judgment, keen wit, and remarkable understanding of the significance of events, the connection between present cause and future effect, he gained the respect of the best statesmen and thinkers in the state. It was his pride that no one had ever dared offer him a bribe, and that he could refuse to drink intoxicating liquor even when the only member of a company who dared take such a stand. One gentleman who has received the highest honors of this State, and almost in the nation, said that he cared more for the judgment of Colonel Ross in regard to public affairs than for that of any other man he ever met. At this time, he was for several years a State Director of the Boston & Albany Railroad.

The years in which he was Superintendent of the Boston, Barre & Gardner Railroad were years of unceasing thought and hard work to build up the road. At the time of the Mill River freshet, the Boston & Albany road was obliged to send its trains over the little Boston, Barre & Gardner. The trains were taken through on time, with no accident, with no detention of his own trains, on a single track, without telegraph connection. The Boston & Albany officials sent him a very appreciative letter, saying they believed it a feat unparalleled in railroading.

In 1877, his health compelled him to resign from active business life. His health failed gradually, the suffering of the last years being severe. He died in Holden, March 26th, 1881, of disease contracted in the army.

Perhaps no event in his history was so far reaching in its consequences as his death and subsequent cremation at the Crematory in Washington, Pa.—the first instance in New England. This act was the cause of much cruel criticism at the time, but now the sentiment of press, of scientists, and of many in all ranks of life, favors such a disposition of the dead. This act was performed at his written request, not from any morbid desire for the sensational, but because from his reading, and from his own experience with an old cemetery in Worcester, which a railroad ruthlessly destroyed, he had come to believe that cremation is the only right way of disposing of the casket of the soul, in justice to the health of the living. As a result of this martyr sacrifice, public attention was drawn to the subject, and several societies were formed. People who had not thought for themselves, said that if Colonel Ross had made up his mind to such a course, it must be right.

This indicates how strongly he was a leader among men ; wise, sagacious, noble, tender-hearted as a woman, a friend of the poor and helpless, frank and merry and lovable, a noble type of highest Christian manhood. He realized those words of Bayard Taylor :

“ The bravest are the tenderest,
The loving are the daring.”

Not that he never made mistakes. He did, and serious ones, which no one regretted more than he ; but he had noble aims and high purposes, and lived very near to them. The world is e'er a gainer for a life well lived.

REV. JOHN ROUNDS.

The Rev. John Rounds was born in Minot, Me., March 30th, 1822, studied at Hebron Academy, and was graduated from Waterville College, now Colby University, in the class of 1849. After two years of study at the Newton Theological Institution, he was ordained September 29th, 1852, and became pastor at New Gloucester, Me., where he remained till 1860. His subsequent pastorates were Freeport, Me., from 1860 to 1865; Alna, Me., from 1865 to 1868; Chelmsford from 1868 to 1872; Holden from 1872 to 1874; Kennebunkport, Me., from 1874 to 1878; and Northfield, Minn., from 1878 to 1883. His last pastoral work was done at Red Wing, Minn., after which he resided at Minneapolis until his death, which occurred March 29th, 1888. "He was a conscientious Christian, an earnest and faithful pastor, a sympathizing friend and a safe and trusted counsellor."¹

CLIFFORD W. STICKNEY, M. D.

Clifford W. Stickney, M. D., was born in Townsend, December 21st, 1855. He received his literary training at Cushing Academy, Ashburnham, and studied medicine with his brother, A. L. Stickney M. D., and at the Medical schools of Dartmouth College and of the University of the City of New York, receiving the diploma of the latter institution in March, 1881. He settled at once in Holden, where he still resides. His practice is large, and his ride extends beyond the limits of Holden into adjoining towns. He was Superintendent of the schools of the town from 1883 to 1886, and has also been for several years a member of the School Committee of the town. His skill and success as a leader and composer of music have often been made to contribute in various ways to the enjoyment and benefit of his towns-people.

¹ Minutes of Maine Baptist State Convention, 1878.

REV. JOSIAH HOLTEN TILTON.

The Rev. Josiah Holten Tilton was born at Deerfield, N. H., October 31st, 1814. His education was received in the public schools and in academies. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in Limerick, Me., April 16th, 1840. His pastorates have been at Limerick, Me., beginning April, 1840; at South Gardner, May, 1844; at Holden, October, 1847; at South Amesbury, September, 1852; at Lynn, November, 1853; at Holden, a second time, April, 1857; at East Brookfield, April, 1859; at Kingston, October, 1863; at Natick, R. I., November, 1866; at Palmer, June, 1869; at Orange, April, 1870; at North Uxbridge, beginning November, 1871, and ending October, 1877. The next few years were spent at Hyde Park in rest. In July, 1881, he became pastor of the First Baptist Church in Chelmsford. His last pastorate was at North Reading, beginning October, 1885, and closing May, 1890. He still resides in Reading.

REV. TIMOTHY C. TINGLEY.

The Rev. Timothy C. Tingley was born in Cumberland, R. I., July 4th, 1804, and died in Raynham, April 2d, 1883. He studied at Brown University and was graduated from the Newton Theological Institution in 1831. He was ordained at Foxboro, July 14th, 1831, where he was pastor till 1837. He was afterwards pastor in Boston from 1837 to 1838; at West Cambridge from 1838 to 1845; at Canton from 1845 to 1848; at Sheldonville from 1848 to 1851; at West Boylston from 1851 to 1854; at Holden from 1854 to 1857; at Scituate from 1857 to 1864; at Somerset from 1864 to 1869; at Quidnick, R. I., from 1869 to 1875; at Raynham from 1875 till his death.

“At the time of his death, and when seventy-eight years of age, he was still prosecuting his pastoral work with almost unabated ardor. . . . Few ministers are permitted for so

River to obtain baptism, the mother carried with her two of their children, one before and one behind the saddle.

The Walker place was in the extreme northern part of Holden, and John Walker spent his early years in farm work, as, indeed, he continued to live on a farm in that neighborhood until his removal from town. In the year 1804, he made a public profession of religion, and was baptized by Elder Andrews, March 11th, 1805. He began preaching in a private house in Holden in October, 1812, and the next Sunday he preached at West Boylston, at what is said to have been the first regular Baptist meeting held on Sunday in that town. He was licensed to preach, August 20th, 1813, ordained as an evangelist October 30th, 1816, at the Congregational meeting-house, and settled as pastor of the Baptist Church, February 20th, 1818. This relation continued more than thirteen years, until April 1st, 1831. He baptized into the fellowship of the church during his pastorate one hundred and seventy-nine persons, and twenty-five others were baptized by Elders Going, Crosby and Andrews, when he was unable to officiate, so that there were two hundred and four additions on profession of faith. During his pastorate in Holden he supplied the Princeton Baptist Church, which was organized under his ministrations, once a month for six years, and in all these years he preached in neighboring towns and baptized believers. For example, in October, 1818, he preached by request in a private house in Leominster, and the next month baptized three persons in the presence of a company estimated at one thousand, it being the first such service ever held in town.

After leaving Holden, Mr. Walker was settled for five years, until 1836, in West Sutton. In a private letter to Dr. Damon, he said: "I took up my Pastoral relation [West Sutton] with an expectation of emigrating to the *far west*! but a long and tedious journey of nearly 4,000 miles satisfied me that my constitution would not bear the climate. My labors commenced with the first Baptist chh. in Barre, in October, 1836. My Pastoral relation in Nov. of the same year."¹ He labored

¹Damon History, p. 114.

in Barre seven years, from 1836 to 1843. He was never settled afterward, but supplied the churches in Bolton, Westminster and Spencer for several years. His last sermon was preached in Barre, July 22d, 1866, and, after an illness of four weeks duration, he died August 18th, 1866.

He married Eunice Metcalf, November 29th, 1813. Their children were :

John, born January 3d, 1815.

Rev. Hervey Day, born April 20th, 1817; now living at Shickshinny, Luzerne County, Pa.

A son, born February, 1819; died when six weeks old.

Rev. Adoniram Judson, born July 22d, 1820; now living at Dalton.

Rev. William Staughton, born January 5th, 1823; now preaching in Rhode Island.

Eunice Metcalf, born February 28th, 1825.

Sylvia Jane, born September 24th, 1827.

WATERMAN G. WARREN.

Waterman G. Warren was born May 16th, 1807, in Ward, the name of which was subsequently changed to Auburn, on the old Warren homestead, which is in that part of the town known as West Auburn. He was the eldest of the six sons and a daughter, born to Deacon Samuel and Sally Goulding Warren. His father, Samuel Warren, born in Leicester, September 10th, 1779, was a son of Jonathan Warren of that town, who was second cousin to General Joseph Warren, and whose father, Ebenezer, born in 1714 and settled in Leicester in 1744, was the great-grandson of John Warren, of Boston, the first American ancestor of the family, who, coming over with Governor Winthrop in the good ship *Arabella*, arrived in Salem, June 12th, 1630.

His mother, Sally Goulding Warren, was born in Auburn, February 1st, 1790. She was the daughter of Captain Jonah Goulding, a conspicuous rebel in the Shays' Rebellion. In



W. G. Warren

this insurrection of 1787, Captain Goulding, afterwards a Colonel in the State militia, led his company to Worcester and prevented Judge Artemas Ward from opening court. For this he was imprisoned, according to his own account, "forty days and forty nights," and in addition was threatened with hanging. The daughter partook of the sterling character of her paternal ancestor.

Mr. Warren, the subject of this sketch, belonged to a family of tanners. His ancestors, back for at least three generations upon both sides of the line, were tanners. All of his brothers, except one, the late Jonah G. Warren, D. D., of Newton Centre, a distinguished Baptist preacher and scholar, were at some time in their lives engaged in that industry, and the same is true of not less than thirteen of the children of the next generation.

His opportunities for obtaining an education were limited in the extreme. He worked upon his father's farm and in the tannery summers, and attended the district school winters, here acquiring the merest rudiments of an education.

On the 22d of April, 1830, he was married to Mary Eddy, of Auburn, his wedding present from his father being two dollars in cash to fee the minister, and the loan of his old horse and "shay" with which to bring home his bride. On the same day fifty years later, April 22d, 1880, the golden wedding anniversary of this marriage was celebrated at the Warren homestead in Holden.

At the death of his father in 1832, he inherited the ancestral tannery, which Jonah Goulding, when he moved from Grafton to Auburn, had purchased of Nathaniel Southworth. Mr. Warren conducted the tanning business here, with varying success, till 1840, when he loaded his "household gods," consisting of a wife and five children, into a covered wagon and moved to Holden, where for ten years he continued the tanning business in partnership with his brother, Samuel Warren, in the tannery built at Eagleville, then called Brick City, about 1825, by John P. Maynard.

This partnership was dissolved by mutual consent, and Mr. Warren, in the spring of 1850, purchased the Edward Richardson tannery, located one-half mile west of Holden Center. According to the record, this tannery, with seventeen acres of land adjoining, was sold by John Watson to Heman Richardson, December 23d, 1789, for one hundred and twenty pounds sterling. Its earlier history is not of record. The old tannery was enlarged and greatly improved and the business successfully continued, a part of the time with his son Samuel as his partner, for more than a quarter of a century.

In 1874, while continuing the business with his eldest son at the old tannery, he formed a partnership with his other two sons, under the firm name of B. & H. W. Warren & Co., and this company erected the brick tannery nearer Holden Center. This tannery, in its character, equipment, and its facilities for producing the kind of leather that is its specialty, card leather, probably is not surpassed by any other in the State. In 1881, business at the Richardson tannery having been discontinued, Samuel Warren became a partner, the style of the firm being changed to W. G. Warren & Sons, and the father and three sons continued the business with a good degree of success until 1886. During these years, there had been a gradual growth of the business from the tanning of perhaps fifteen hundred sides of leather in 1845 to twenty thousand sides in 1886.

Mr. Warren died August 7th, 1886, at the age of seventy-nine, leaving a wife who survived him but one year, his three sons, who still continue the business under the firm name of W. G. Warren's Sons, and two daughters, one the widow of the late Rev. Lester Williams, formerly pastor of the Baptist Church in Holden, and the other, Susan E. Warren.

He was a devoted husband and father, kind-hearted and charitable. A man of good common sense, sound judgment, and the strictest integrity, he enjoyed the fullest confidence of all in his business and other relations. He had marked peculiarities, and his strong personality impressed itself upon all with whom he came in contact.



Samuel Warner.

He was the relentless foe of the liquor traffic, and the cause of temperance and all the moral reforms of his day received from him a liberal and hearty support.

In his early life, in the palmy days of slavery, he was an abolitionist, a follower of Gerrit Smith, Garrison and Phillips. He boldly proclaimed his sentiments in favor of liberty for the oppressed, when such action meant hardship, scorn and persecution. After the enactment of the Fugitive Slave Law, he was zealous and active in all movements in behalf of the fugitive, and made his home a place of refuge for the bondman—a station on the underground railroad to freedom—thus earning the honor due to those who have the courage of their convictions, and the daring of their duty.

SAMUEL WARREN.

Samuel Warren was born in Auburn, October 15th, 1834. He was the eldest son of Waterman Goulding and Mary Eddy Warren, who removed to Holden in 1840. He was educated in the public schools of Holden, Worcester Academy and Westfield Normal School.

After teaching a short time, he became associated with his father in the manufacture of card leather, being made a partner in the business in January, 1867. This partnership continued until 1881, when he became a member of the firm of W. G. Warren & Sons, tanners, a business that had been established six years previously by his father and two younger brothers.

He was a member of the Board of Selectmen in 1872 and 1873, of the Assessors in 1868, 1869, 1887 and 1888, and of the School Committee from 1862 to 1865, and from 1883 to 1886. In 1867 he represented his district in the State Legislature. In politics he is a republican.

May 13th, 1869, he married Marion E. Lakin, daughter of George Shipley and Nancy Hubbard Lakin.

They have three sons :

Herbert Lakin, born August 24th, 1870; a member of the class of 1895 in Amherst College.

Arthur Kirke, born December 13th, 1871.

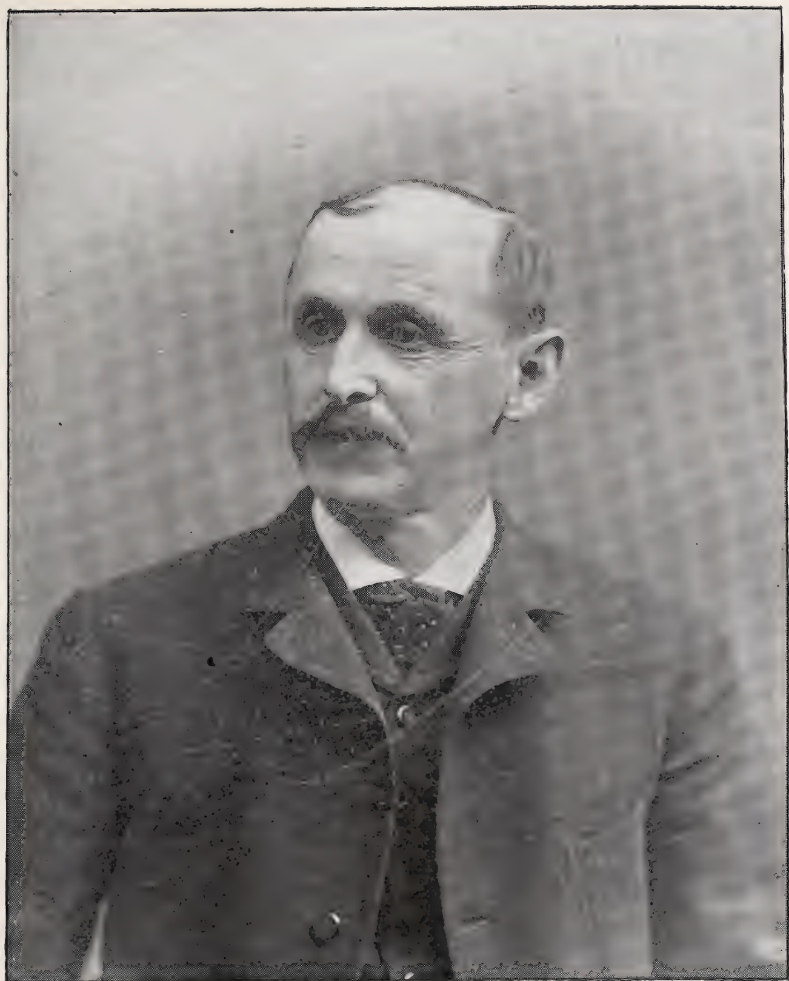
George Waterman, born December 3d, 1882.

BERTHIER WARREN.

Among those who have contributed to the business prosperity of Holden should be included Berthier Warren, of the firm of W. G. Warren's Sons. He was the second son of Waterman G. and Mary Eddy Warren, and was born in Auburn October 22d, 1836. He came to Holden, when, in 1840, his parents removed to this place. His education was received in the common schools of the town, and at Wilbraham, Easthampton and Claverack academies.

After the close of the war, in the spring of 1866, Mr. Warren went south and purchased, in connection with his younger brother, a cotton plantation in Leake County, Mississippi. The following nine years were spent there, during which time he served, in addition to his private business, as a member of the Board of Registration for one year, and as clerk of the Chancery Court for three years.

Returning to Holden in the spring of 1875, Mr. Warren entered into a partnership with his father and younger brother for the manufacture of card leather. With the subsequent history of this firm his own history has become closely identified. Taking the firm name of B. & H. W. Warren & Co., they erected and equipped the main building of the brick tannery, situated near the center of the town. The growth and development of the business thus begun has been followed by the admission of the eldest brother, Samuel Warren, to the firm, the name of which has been successively changed, first to W. G. Warren & Sons, then to W. G. Warren's Sons. It has also been followed by the enlargement and more thorough equip-



BERTHIER WARREN.



Henry W. Warren.

ment of the plant, which is now, for the purpose for which it is designed, one of the best in the state.

Mr. Warren was married September 4th, 1871, to Eunice C. Boyden, daughter of Comfort and Silence Boyden. They have had two children: one daughter, Mary Silence, now living; and one son, Harry Lester, who died in infancy.

HENRY WATERMAN WARREN.

Henry Waterman Warren, youngest son of W. G. and Mary E. Warren, was born in Auburn, March 18th, 1838, and came with his parents to Holden in 1840. In his youth he attended the public schools of the town and Worcester Academy; was graduated at the Westfield Normal School in 1857; fitted for college at Easthampton, and was graduated from Yale with the class of 1865. He took an oration appointment at the Junior examination and at Commencement. After graduation he was for six months a teacher in the public schools of Nashville, Tenn.; then, in the spring of 1866, purchased, with his brother Berthier, a cotton plantation in Leake County, Mississippi, where he resided more than ten years, engaged in the cultivation of cotton.

This was the reconstruction period of the South, and in Mississippi Mr. Warren was an active participant, and had all the varied experiences of the so-called "carpet-bagger" in those stirring and stormy times.

He was Probate Judge of Leake County in 1867, by appointment of General Adelbert Ames, then Acting-Governor of the State, and was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention of Mississippi from that county, notwithstanding the registered white voters of the county outnumbered the Afro-American two to one. He represented the county again in the Legislatures of 1870 and 1871, and was Speaker of the House in the latter year, and was its Chief Clerk during the next four years. In 1873 he was appointed by Governor

Powers, Levee Commissioner of the State, and had the sole charge of the collection and disbursement of the funds for the payment of the Old Levee Debt, and the sale of the tax lands held by the State for that purpose.

He was a delegate from the Congressional District in which he resided, to the National Republican Convention at Chicago, in May, 1868, when General Grant was first nominated for the Presidency, and again to the Convention at Cincinnati in 1876, when General Hayes was nominated.

In the summer of this year he returned to Holden to engage with his brother in the tanning business, and is at the present time a member of the firm of W. G. Warren's Sons.

The citizens of Holden have at different times expressed their confidence in Mr. Warren in various ways since his return to the town. He was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1882 and 1885; has served as a member of the Board of Selectmen in 1878, 1879, 1880 and 1885, and was chairman in the last two years; was elected a member of the Board of Overseers of the Poor in 1890, and Town Treasurer in 1889, and has held the latter office since that date.

November 8th, 1877, he married Dora L. Howe, youngest daughter of Deacon William and Mary Ann Jefferson Howe. Their children are:

William Howe, born September 28th, 1879.

Blanche Louise, born July 11th, 1881.

Helen Goulding, born November 7th, 1883.

Waterman Goulding, born November 16th, 1890.

REV. GEORGE WATERS.

The Rev. George Waters was born in Thompson, Conn., February 12th, 1800. Having obtained such an education as fitted him to teach in the common schools of that time, he taught sixteen winters, beginning when fifteen years old. In his earlier life he married and settled in Woodstock, Conn., and was a member and deacon of the Congregational Church at "Muddy Brook" in that town. Under the influence of the famous Dr. Isaac Backus, his doctrinal views changed, and in 1830 he became a member of the Baptist Church in Webster, and two months later he was chosen deacon. After a full course at the Newton Theological Institution, 1831 to 1834, he was ordained pastor at Holden, September 25th, 1834. He was later pastor at Sterling, 1838 to 1841, and at Amherst 1843 to 1847. On account of bronchial trouble he gave up pastoral work for a time, and served, 1841 to 1843, as financial agent of the Manual Labor High School, now Worcester Academy. For the same reason, in 1847, he finally relinquished pastoral labor. Afterward he removed to Plainfield, N. J., where he died, April 10th, 1865.

Mr. Waters was an earnest man, a faithful pastor, an ever welcome friend and visitor. His religious views were pronounced and tenaciously held; his social and political opinions were no less positive. In days when Abolitionists were unpopular, he was Vice President of the Massachusetts Abolition Society.

REV. WOODMAN HARRISON WATSON.

The Rev. Woodman Harrison Watson was born in Litchfield, Me., June 14th, 1813. He studied for five years at the Literary and Theological Institution at Thomaston, Me. He was ordained pastor of the Baptist Church in Holden, June 21st, 1843, where his pastorate continued till April 16th, 1847. His later pastorates were, at New Gloucester, Me., from 1847 to 1848; at Natick from 1848 to 1853; at West Acton from 1853 to 1860; at Newport, N. H., from 1860 to 1861; at Leominster from 1861 to 1864; at South Hanson from 1865 to 1867; and at Fayville from 1867 to 1869. This was his last settlement, though he continued to supply vacant churches for some years as opportunity offered. He died in Southboro, September 26th, 1892.

Mr. Watson had a clear and strong sense of what is just and true, and was fearless in the expression of it. As a preacher, his style was crisp, bright and forcible. His pastorates were marked, in more than one instance, by relief from oppressive financial burdens.

CAPTAIN GEORGE WEBB.

George Webb was born in or near the town of Barnstable. At the age of eighteen he served as a soldier in the French war. He was one of the first to enlist in the struggle for independence, receiving a commission as captain of light infantry, and served with credit throughout the whole war, till its triumphant conclusion. Captain Webb was a man of more than ordinary enterprise and courage. A complimentary letter from Lafayette has already been given, on page 30, and Captain Webb was the submarine navigator who attached the American torpedo to the bottom of a British seventy-four-gun ship. His name appears as a member of the Order of the Cincinnati.



REV. LESTER WILLIAMS.

Early in the Revolutionary War he removed his family to Holden, and after the war he spent the rest of his life here, very highly respected. At the age of seventy he made a public profession of religion. His death occurred August 25th, 1825, in the eighty-sixth year of his age.

REV. LESTER WILLIAMS.

The Rev. Lester Williams, son of Lester and Cynthia B. Williams, was born in West Springfield, July 24th, 1823; fitted for college with Rev. Sanford Lawton of Springfield; was graduated from Amherst College in the class of 1844; studied law in Springfield with E. D. Beach; was admitted to the bar, October, 1846; practiced law in Knoxville, Tenn., 1846 to 1848; was a Baptist preacher in Tennessee, 1848 to 1850: took a partial course in theology; was ordained at Russell, in August, 1851; was pastor there three years; at West Townsend six years, teaching also one year; at Holden six years; at Oswego, N. Y., four years, and at Fredonia, N. Y., seven years. He was also Superintendent of the Colored Refugee Home, Camp Nelson, Ky., 1866, and Chaplain of the Mississippi Constitutional Convention, 1868. His last five years were passed at West Springfield. During these years he was occupied in caring for his widowed mother and in managing his father's estate; in preaching as supply for neighboring churches; in serving the town on the school board; and officiating during the last year as chaplain of the Hampden County jail. He died October 24th, 1885. His death was the result of accident. Crossing a dry railroad bridge, he was struck by a switch engine and thrown to the pit below, receiving injuries which he survived only eight days.

He married, September 26th, 1848, Frances L., daughter of William Clough, who died in Holden, September 7th, 1861; and October 9th, 1862, Ann E., daughter of Waterman G. Warren.

Mr. Williams was unusually tall, erect in carriage, and dignified in manner. "He was a man of vigorous mind, original thought and effective address. His preaching had characteristics peculiar to itself. He never travelled in any beaten path, but in his unfolding of the Scripture generally brought forth something unobserved by others. If occasionally his labored thinking could not find clear expression to convey his mind to another, yet for the most part he exhibited the power of a logical and instructive teacher. At times he rose into flights of most impressive eloquence and stirred the hearts of his hearers with most penetrating force. He was a man of sobriety and dignity and worth, a man to be respected in every relation of life. He had clean lips and hands and heart, and was a lover of all good men."¹ He "was a true and steadfast friend, a wise and valued counselor, a sympathetic and faithful spiritual guide and instructor; . . . whose broad catholic impulses, whose ready and constant charities, whose pure and consistent life had won . . . respect and love. . . . In his official and public labors there was ever shown an unswerving loyalty to the distinctive principles of our faith, a fearless and untiring advocacy of the great reforms of our times, and a profound and conscientious devotion to the special work of the sacred office to which he was called."²

¹ Minutes of Massachusetts Conference of Baptist ministers, 1886.

² From resolutions adopted by the Fredonia Baptist Church and Congregation.

JUDAH WRIGHT.

At the Centennial Celebration of the town, a hymn was sung, "composed by Mr. Judah Wright, a citizen of Holden, nearly seventy years of age, and blind from his infancy." He was born in Holden, April 1st, 1774, his father then living on the place later owned by Timothy Parker. He became blind from cataract while still an infant. His father died when he was about twelve years old. From early life he supported himself, and for many years, his mother as well, by making baskets and bottoming chairs.

He was endowed by nature with excellent mental powers, and he always showed an intense desire to acquire knowledge. The years between 1801 and 1806 he often humorously styled his "Collegiate Course," as during this period he often visited the family of the Rev. Mr. Avery, and received much assistance from his daughters. Many others at different times read to him, or acted as his amanuenses. For nineteen years Major Paul Davis was accustomed to read the *Massachusetts Spy* to him, and it is said that not nineteen weeks were omitted during all that time. He thus became, by common consent, one of the best informed men in the town. His knowledge of history was both extensive and exact, and few were so well acquainted with the occurrences of the day. He died February 17th, 1844.

He was accustomed, frequently, to arrange his thoughts in rhyme. In 1812, he published a pamphlet entitled "Poems Upon Various Subjects," and in 1823, another, entitled "Alonzo's Dream: or an Allegorical Representation of the Light in which Faults and Misfortunes are Frequently Viewed by the Unthinking Part of Mankind." This "Dream" was in prose, but to it were appended two poems, the first of which follows:

HISTORY OF HOLDEN.

THE BLIND MAN.

Though darkness still attends me,
It aids internal sight,
And from such scenes defends me
As blush to seek the light.

No villain's smiles deceive me ;
No gilded fop offends ;
No weeping object grieves me ;
Kind darkness me befriends.

Who painted vice desires,
Is blind, whate'er he thinks ;
Who virtue not admires,
Is either blind or winks.

Then hence these useless railings !
I know no reason why—
Mankind to their own failings
Are all as blind as I.

CHAPTER XIV.

LIFE AND DEATH.

HEALTHFULNESS. — GOLDEN WEDDINGS. — PHYSICIANS. — EPI-
DEMICS. — LONGEVITY. — DEATH RATE. — CEMETERIES.



NOT many towns in the Commonwealth, if any, enjoy greater advantages for healthfulness than does Holden. Elevated so that it is swept by life-giving breezes, having no miasmatic marshes within its borders, with a water supply of the purest, there is every reason for expecting the dwellers here to be sturdy and long-lived. As might then be foreseen, the statistics of the Commonwealth show, that, of all the towns in which the circumstances of life and occupation are similar, scarcely any, if indeed a single one, surpasses Holden in the longevity and healthfulness of its inhabitants.

A number of tests, besides the mere comparison of death rates, might be used to substantiate the above claim. One has but to become familiar, even superficially, with the life of the town to remark the unusual number of hale and hearty men, who, though already past three-score and ten, and even in many instances past four-score, are still active both in the management of their own business, and also in the public affairs of church and town.

It is further interesting to note how often in the last quarter-century there have come in town opportunities to celebrate "Golden Weddings." It is not to be presumed that the following list is complete, but it is certainly remembered that the

fiftieth anniversary of marriage was in these cases at least,¹ more or less formally commemorated.

David Clapp and Nancy Davis ; November 28th, 1866.

Moses N. Seaver and Roxana Almer ; December 2d, 1874.

Lyman Bryant and Mary Merrifield ; April 26th, 1876.

John Richardson and Sarah Chaffin ; November 27th, 1876.

Daniel Knowlton and Lucy M. Dodd ; March 8th, 1877.

Lorenzo D. Newton and Sally L. Fessenden ; April 22d, 1878.

Jonathan M. Dodd and Abigail S. Kendall ; September 2d, 1879.

Winslow Fairbanks and Maria Knowlton ; October 13th, 1879.

Waterman G. Warren and Mary Eddy ; April 22d, 1880.

Charles Turner and Angelina Smith ; July 24th, 1881.

James S. Bassett and Philena A. Cummings ; February 28th, 1888.

Thorret Smith and Caroline D. H. Gilbert ; June 18th, 1889.

John Adams and Electa Elmer ; October 16th, 1889.

Samuel Turner and Nancy J. Howe ; April 7th, 1892.

Nearly fifty years passed after the settlement of Holden before any physician permanently located here. The first physician in town was Dr. Isaac Chenery, of whom a sketch has already been given. Dr. Thaddeus Chenery, son of the preceding, was born in Holden, April 27th, 1769. After practising a short time with his father, he removed to Boylston, where he remained, excepting six years spent in Lancaster, until, soon after the death of his father, he returned to this town, where he continued to practise until his death, September 25th, 1856.

¹ It may also be noted that Moses Winn and Lucinda Drake, his wife, were making preparations for the celebration of their Golden Wedding, to occur in September, 1880, when, August 19th of that year, he was accidentally killed. September 4th, 1892, Willard Allen and Sarah S. Savage celebrated their Golden Wedding in Worcester, where they were residing at the time, though for more than forty years, till 1873, they had lived in Holden. Archelaus and Laura Putnam had, at the time of her death, been married fifty-nine years, but their fiftieth anniversary was not celebrated.

Several others, Moses Wheeler, Aaron Hubbard, both natives of Holden, John Smith, and his son, John M. Smith, Aaron G. Babcock, Warren Partridge and A. G. Skinner are recorded by Dr. Damon as having practised in town for a longer or shorter time, and he then adds: "Some other Physicians have *come and gone*."¹

George Estabrook, M. D., was born in Rutland August 26th, 1795, studied with Dr. McFarland of Rutland, practised in Holden and Rutland for many years, and died in Rutland, of heart disease, February 18th, 1845.

Augustus Robbins, M. D., a native of the town of Harvard, who received his degree from the Harvard Medical School, began practice in Holden, June 20th, 1837, and continued here until 1848, when he removed to Brooklyn, N. Y., where he soon after died.

Dr. David Davis, a son of Elnathan Davis, and grandson of Captain James Davis, was born in Holden in 1802. He received his medical degree at New Haven in 1824, and spent all his professional life in this town, except an absence of two years in New York City between the years 1835 and 1837. He died September 15th, 1857. Not only on account of his professional skill, but in every other way as well, he deserved and received for many years high honor from his fellow citizens.

Dr. Albert D. Smith, a young and highly respected physician, settled in town in 1853, and died September 28th, 1858, at the age of thirty-four.

Joseph Thomas Odiorne West, M. D., practised medicine in Holden for some years previous to 1853. He then removed to the state of New York for a short time, and settled in Princeton in 1854, where he died January 28th, 1887.

Sketches of Drs. Ames, Robinson, Rood and Stickney have already been given among the Personal Notices.

Early in its history, Holden was twice visited with epidemics, which, from their virulence and fatality, almost deserved the

¹ Damon History, p. 134.

name of pestilences. In his historical sermon, Rev. Mr. Davis said :

“ There was a remarkable sickness about seven years after my settlement : Twenty two persons died. And about six years after, the year after the great earthquake, a raging distemper carried off about forty five persons in a short time, mostly younger persons and children.” ¹

The latter epidemic was thus described at the time :

“ The Distemper is a Dysentery, or Bloody-Flux. And when *malignant*, is commonly attended with Vomiting, high Fever, extream Pain : and sometimes with *visible* Canker.—When the Patient appeared with *high* Symptoms of the Distemper at first, he often died in 3 or 4 days : Others, and especially those *less* violently seiz’d, lived 8 or 10 Days, or more. Much Vomiting a *bad* Symptom : and cold Hands and great Restlessness commonly fatal : Tho’ many died without *all*, if not without *any*, of these Symptoms in a high Degree.”

“ In this Parish have been buried 42 in about seven weeks. A *Mortality*, which in less than three Years wou’d have buried the whole Parish, (which consisted of near 800 Souls), allowing for the probable Increase in the mean Time. The Proportion of the Dead to the Living is as 1 to 19, nearly. In the little Town of *Holden*, where the sickness first began, which, the 20th of *October*, had buried 40, the Proportion is much greater. In *Old Rutland*, at the same Time, had died 45. In the North Parish in *Shrewsbury* upwards of 20. And in more distant Places less, in Proportion to the number of People.” ²

There is no record of the prevalence in Holden of the “ spotted fever”, which raged so fearfully in many communities early in the present century. While from neighboring towns notices in the newspapers are continually recurring, phrased “ Died from the prevailing fever”, this form has been noted in only a single instance from this town.

¹ Mr. Davis’ Sermon, p. 21.

² “ A Discourse . . . Delivered Lord’s-Day *October* 31, 1756, At the West Parish in *Lancaster* : On Occasion of the late Mortality in *that* and the neighboring Places. . . . By *John Mellen*, A. M. Pastor of the Church of Christ there,” pp. 30, 31.

While the almost world-wide distemper, particularly designated as *la grippe* or "the grip", which prevailed during the winters of 1889-90, 1890-91, and 1891-2, was no more prevalent here than elsewhere, in fact less prevalent than in most places, the fact of its occurrence ought to be recorded, that the memory of it may not be lost, as is practically the case with previous visitations. Especially during the last-named winter a great share of the inhabitants were at once prostrated by it, or at least weakened, and it occasioned, either directly or indirectly, an unusual number of deaths of elderly persons.

From the records of Dr. Bardwell, Dr. Paine, and the Town Clerk it appears that since 1825 no less than two hundred and twenty persons have died at the age of eighty or more, and it is possible that in some of the earlier years the records are incomplete. The ages of these persons at the time of their deaths were as follows : at eighty, thirty-one ; at eighty-one, nineteen ; at eighty-two, twenty-two ; at eighty-three, twenty-one ; at eighty-four, eighteen ; at eighty-five, seventeen ; at eighty-six, sixteen ; at eighty-seven, eighteen ; at eighty-eight, seven ; at eighty-nine, fifteen ; at ninety, nine ; at ninety-one, seven ; at ninety-two, seven ; at ninety-three, five ; at ninety-four, two ; at ninety-five, one ; at ninety-seven, four ; at ninety-nine, one.

The names, ages and dates of death of those who had reached ninety years are as follows :

Sarah Davis, ninety-seven ; July 11th, 1825.

Sarah Newell, ninety ; January 10th, 1834.

Joseph Howard, ninety-three ; November 21st, 1836.

Jeremiah Blake, ninety ; January 23d, 1837.

John Potter, ninety-two ; October 6th, 1843.

Ruth Fisk, ninety-three ; June 29th, 1846.

Susannah Mann, ninety ; August 12th, 1848.

Lucy Walker, ninety-three ; January 21st, 1849.

William Drury, ninety-two ; January 20th, 1850.

Hannah Rogers, ninety-one ; May 14th, 1851.

Sarah Smith, ninety ; February 29th, 1852.

Isaac Leland, ninety-four ; December 17th, 1852.
Hannah Chaffin, ninety-one ; November 17th, 1856.
Judith B. Holbrook, ninety-five ; December 6th, 1856.
Hannah Pierce, ninety-seven ; November 13th, 1857.
Mary Burns, ninety ; September 13th, 1865.
Sarah H. Goulding, ninety ; November 30th, 1866.
Hannah Bullard, ninety-two ; April 29th, 1868.
Silas Flagg, ninety-two ; June 6th, 1870.
Abigail H. White, ninety-two ; June 20th, 1870.
Sarah Fales, ninety-seven ; March 11th, 1872.
William Croxford, ninety-two ; October 5th, 1873.
Huldah Ball, ninety ; April 2d, 1876.
Hannah Marsh, ninety-one ; April 28th, 1877.
Nathan Chase, ninety-one ; August 6th, 1877.
Samuel Fisk,¹ ninety-three ; June 29th, 1878.
Ebenezer Wilson, ninety ; February 14th, 1883.
Araminta Osborn, ninety-three ; May 13th, 1883.
Mary W. Flagg, ninety-seven ; October 3d, 1886.
Elizabeth B. Black, ninety-nine ; January 25th, 1888.
Elizabeth Osborn, ninety-two ; December 1st, 1888.
Nancy F. Mason, ninety ; April 29th, 1889.
Eunice C. Hubbard, ninety-four ; February 9th, 1891.
Anna Bullard, ninety-one ; March 8th, 1891.
Lyman Bryant, ninety-one ; June 9th, 1891.
Salmon Putnam, ninety-one ; January 21st, 1892.

The yearly number of deaths in town, from 1845 to 1891, averaged almost precisely thirty-six. The greatest number of deaths in any of these years was in 1891, when forty-eight deaths were reported. In 1854, 1855 and 1890, forty-five deaths are recorded. The least number of deaths for any year was in 1853, when there were only twenty-six, and for three consecutive months, October, November and December, there was not a death in the whole town. In 1851, 1869 and 1886, there were but twenty-seven deaths.

¹Mr. Fisk, when a boy, went to meeting in the original meeting-house, remembered the raising of its successor, and finally attended service for some time in the renovated structure.

The town purchased a hearse for public use at a quite early date. April 6th, 1795, it was voted to procure "a carriage to carry the dead," and since then it has been renovated or replaced from time to time as occasion has required. For many years it was the custom that coffins should be furnished by the undertaker at public expense, in part at least.

Lyman Bryant was appointed town undertaker in April, 1841, and he served in that position until April, 1873. During this period, there were one thousand and eighty-five deaths or funerals. In his old age, Mr. Bryant used often to claim that he had buried nine hundred and ninety-nine persons.

The first cemetery lay opposite the present Common. In the warrant for the town meeting held March 7th, 1742, there was an article reading, "To see if the Town will clear up its burial place," but no action was recorded. May 24th, the next year, it was "Voted, that mr Samuel Thomson be the person to procuer an acer of Land on y^e South west Side of y^e highway tordes Rutland takeing y^e Land on which we have buried on as a bureing place for y^e Town." This sufficed for the needs of the people for a long time, but in 1826 the following record appears: "Voted a Committee to buy a spot or spots of Land for a graveyard and prepare it in a suitable manner for the purpose of burying our dead at the expense of the town," and in August, the sum of four hundred dollars was appropriated to defray the costs of this action. Again a spot insufficient in size for the needs of the town was procured, and in less than thirty years a new cemetery was demanded. This time private enterprise forestalled the necessity of corporate action. The new cemetery bears the name, "Grove Cemetery." It lies west of the Center and north of the main street. Already spacious, it is capable of indefinite expansion, as continuing needs may require. A burial place for the use of the members of St. Mary's Parish was consecrated in the immediate vicinity of their former church, and close to Grove Cemetery.

Grove Cemetery was formally consecrated to its sacred purposes August 24th, 1854. The Order of Exercises was as follows :

Invocation and Reading of the Scriptures, by Rev. T. C. Tingley.

Singing of Hymn written by Miss Sarah C. Paine.

Prayer, by the Rev. Elnathan Davis.

Singing of Hymn written by Mrs. D. Walker.

Addresses by William P. Paine, D. D., the Hon. Isaac Davis, and the Rev. Elnathan Davis.

Prayer, by the Rev. Ezra Crowell.

Singing of Hymn written by the Rev. Elnathan Davis.

Benediction.

The hymn by Miss Paine read as follows :

Assembled in this sacred place,
Where mingle joy and gloom,
Impart, O Lord, that fervent grace
Which triumphs o'er the tomb.

We come to consecrate this ground
To slumbers calm and deep,
To holy silence, rest profound,
To quiet, tranquil sleep.

Ye who will slumber in this shade,
How sweet will be your rest ;
Beneath the waving pine tree laid,
Naught shall your sleep molest.

But not alone unto the dead
This place will sacred be ;
The living oft these paths will tread
With tear-drops gushing free.

But, oh ! not long this spot shall be
A resting place and home ;
The threshold of eternity
Hath this abode become.

The tomb shall soon its treasures yield,
And death itself shall die,
And slumberers in this rural field
Shall wake to life on high.

The following was the hymn by the Rev. Mr. Davis, which was sung on this occasion :

Unbar thy massive gate,
Pale city of the dead !
A throng of way-worn pilgrims wait
Thy silent paths to tread.

On to thy bound they press—
The strong, the wise, the fair,
The infant with its golden tress,
Age with its silvery hair.

Oh ! as with prayer and hymn,
The living come to lay
Within thy chambers, cold and dim,
Their cherished dead away,

Faith, 'mid the deepening gloom,
Bid thy mild radiance shine,
Pointing the mourner from the tomb
Up to a world divine !

Unbar thy portal then,
Home for the homeless made,
And bid the weary sons of men
Rest in thy peaceful shade.

The cemetery is under the care and control of a corporation styled, The Grove Cemetery Corporation in Holden. The present officers are: President, Levi H. Howe ; Secretary, Isaac Damon ; Trustees, Henry W. Warren, Emory Rogers, George S. Graham, George Bascom, Phineas R. Newell, together with the President and Secretary.

The part of the cemetery thus far prepared for use, consists of parallel ridges between which lie valleys of different

breadth. The varied contour of slopes and summits affords unusual natural advantages for the purpose to which they have been devoted. The valley farther from the entrance was in 1889, by the liberality of Messrs. Charles Flagg and William Howe, at a cost of about \$700, beautified with an elliptical basin for water, granite lined, and adorned with a fountain. At an expenditure of \$1,800, two daughters of Holden, now residents of Worcester, Mrs. Lucinda R. Cutting and Mrs. Abigail Coes, in 1888, provided an entrance walled in stone, so tasteful that an eminent authority says, they "made the entrance to Grove Cemetery more beautiful than anything of the kind I have ever seen in a village of its size."¹

¹ Hon. B. G. Northrop, in *New York Weekly Tribune* of February 25th, 1891.

CHAPTER XV.

SOCIETIES.

SOCIETY FOR DETECTING THIEVES. — KNIGHTS TEMPLAR. —
TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES. — THE NONDESCRIPT CLUB. —
THE HOLDEN GRANGE. — FARMERS' AND MECHANICS
CLUB. — THERON E. HALL POST, G. A. R. — WOMEN'S
RELIEF CORPS.



HERE is scarcely any need to assert that many societies have been formed in this town, of many kinds and with varied purposes. It has been found practicable, in this work, to give detailed sketches of only a few of them.

SOCIETY FOR DETECTING THIEVES.

A society for detecting thieves was organized with thirty-two members in the year 1818. The purpose of its organization may be learned from the following extract from the constitution, adopted February 23d, 1818:

"As energy, vigilance and union are highly expedient to suppress the *sons of violence*, often found in society, the persons whose names are hereunto annexed, do agree to form themselves into a society for the purpose of detecting thieves and recovering stolen property."¹

This was one of many similar societies which were organized for the same purpose in the towns in this region. This society flourished for sixty years or more, and during this period of

¹ Damon History, p. 124.

almost two generations, it included within its membership nearly all the leading citizens of the town.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

The Worcester County Encampment of Knights Templar was constituted at Holden, December 17th, 1824, working under dispensation until June 16th, 1825, when it received its charter. At that time a public address, which was printed, was given by Rev. Benjamin Wood, of Upton.

“The place of meeting was the hall connected with the Abbott hotel. Holden, at that period, was relatively one of the most important of those thriving business centres which surrounded Worcester, and which were not far behind the shire town in enterprise and progress. The Encampment remained in Holden until January, 1831, when it removed to Worcester.”¹

“On the 24th of June, 1875, the Commandery² celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of its organization by a visit to the old Asylum at Holden, a public parade in Worcester, and a banquet at the Hall. An assembly was held at in the old Asylum in due regular form, and business pertaining to the day and occasion duly transacted. The hall is [was] in the second story of the rear part of the old Abbott Hotel in Holden, and from the appearance it presented, one would judge that it had not been in use, except for purposes of storage, since it was vacated by the Encampment. . . . The original chandelier, from which light was shed upon the work in ancient days, still held its honored place, and a committee was appointed to negotiate with Brother Cheney Abbott, the owner, for its transfer to the apartments in Worcester, whose duty was successfully carried out. The chandelier was conveyed to Worcester by the committee, who added to the trophies of the occasion one of the benches in use full fifty years before, and a pair of well used ‘loggerheads.’ A substantial repast was provided by Brother Cheney

¹ By-laws of the Worcester County Commandery, Knights Templars, 1878, p. 21.

² In 1869, the name was changed from Encampment to Commandery.

Abbott, who catered for the Sir Knights at the banquet of the organization fifty years before.”¹

The following citizens of Holden were charter members of the Encampment : George Estabrook, Merrill Davis and Samuel S. Stratton ; and the following residents of the town have since been connected with the body : Artemas Dryden, Jr., David Davis, Rev. Preston Cummings, Rev. Horatio Bardwell, Oliver Clapp, Barney L. White, Hollis Ball, Theron E. Hall, Emerson Hubbard, Herbert W. Verry and Alfred Chaffin.

TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.

The first temperance society existing in this town was organized in the year 1829. Rev. Mr. Bardwell and Ethan Davis are mentioned by Dr. Damon as having been especially active in its formation. The third article of the constitution, which was adopted September 15th, 1829, read as follows :

“ The members of this Society believing that the use of intoxicating liquors is, for persons in health, not only unnecessary, but hurtful, and that the practice is the cause of forming intemperate habits and appetites, that while it is continued, the evils of intemperance can never be prevented ; do therefore agree, that we will abstain from the use of distilled spirits, except as a medicine, in case of bodily infirmity, and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance the use of them in the community.”

“ *If, however, individuals shall deem it necessary to make any use of ardent spirits, they shall report the same at the annual meetings of the Society.*”²

The next step which marked the evolution of temperance sentiment, was the Washingtonian movement. Of this Dr. Damon thus speaks :

“ When the friends of Temperance made the above agreement, behind them they could see, with Bunyan’s Pilgrim, the City of

¹ By-laws, pp. 24, 25.

² Damon History, pp. 148, 149.

Destruction, and the Slough of Despond. Hill of *Difficulty*, however, was in full prospect before them. For 12 long years they have been struggling up that hill, undismayed by the difficulties of the way. About two or three years since, they caught a glimpse of the *Delectable Mountains*, ‘beautiful with woods, vineyards, fruits of all sorts, flowers also, with *springs* and *fountains*, very delectable to behold.’ When the Temperance Pilgrims had advanced thus far, they commenced a discussion respecting total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks. ‘They went then until they came to the Delectable Mountains, so they went up to the mountains, to behold the gardens, and orchards, the vineyards and FOUNTAINS of WATER, where also they drank and washed themselves, and did freely eat, [not drink,] of the vineyards.’

“From a peak of one of the Delectable Mountains, a flag is seen waving in the breeze, and upon its folds are inscribed,

‘WASHINGTON TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.

1841.

Pilgrims are daily arriving.’”¹

Much was accomplished by the Washingtonian movement, even though not all that at the time was fondly hoped, and much remained to be accomplished in other ways. In the decade from 1860 to 1870, and for some time afterwards, there flourished a Band of Hope for the children and a lodge of Good Templars for older persons. The Good Templar lodge embraced within its membership all classes, and is remembered to have been an agency productive of much good. Ethan Davis took the chief part in organizing and promoting the Band of Hope, receiving the well-merited title of “Father of the Band of Hope.”

The chief work for temperance within the last few years has been accomplished by the local branch of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, which was organized October 12th, 1885. Mrs. I. M. Ball has been President of the society since its organization, and Mrs. Samuel Warren, Secretary. The departments of work which have been taken up are: juvenile, Sunday-school, legislative, and scientific temperance instruction.

¹ Damon History, p. 149.

THE NONDESCRIPT CLUB.

Some time in the year 1881, a number of persons associated themselves chiefly for social purposes. After a few meetings it was decided to work for some object, so that all money raised should be spent for the public good. A constitution was adopted, article II. of which reads, "Object : to promote social feeling, and establish a fund for public benefit."

The methods adopted were numerous and varied. Every summer the Club held a picnic ; in winter it gave suppers ; in summer, lawn parties. February 22d and 23d, 1882, a fair was held by which more than \$250 was raised.

The Club secured the digging of the well on the common at the expense of the town, and introduced the water into the Town Hall. The desk in Memorial Hall and some of the dishes kept at the Town Hall for public use were bought by the Club. It also provided many of the street lamps. It may fairly be said to have been the precursor of the Village Improvement Societies now flourishing in town.

THE HOLDEN GRANGE.

The Holden Grange, No. 78, Patrons of Husbandry, was organized February 9th, 1875, with thirty-one charter members, as follows : Joseph H. Gleason, Mrs. Joseph H. Gleason, John Adams, Ethan Davis, Elliott Moore, Mrs. Elliott Moore, John T. Abbott, Mrs. John T. Abbott, George S. Goddard, William H. Drury, Mrs. William H. Drury, Alfred Bradish, Cyrus P. Phelps, Mrs. Cyrus P. Phelps, Emory Rogers, Mrs. Emory Rogers, Phineas R. Newell, Mrs. Phineas R. Newell, George B. Roper, Sumner Chamberlain, Mrs. Sumner Chamberlain, George Bascom, Mrs. George Bascom, George H. Turner, William H. Walker, Mrs. William H. Walker, Lewis F. Hubbard, Mrs. Lewis F. Hubbard, John Holden, Eli Hubbard,

Chenery Abbott. Of these charter members, nine have died, and six are still members, the others having removed from town or withdrawn from membership. Since the organization of the Grange, one hundred and ninety-two have joined, and the membership in August, 1892, was one hundred and six.

The following have held the office of Master of the Grange: Ethan Davis, 1875; W. H. Walker, 1876; George Bascom, 1877; George S. Graham, 1878; Sumner Chamberlain, 1879; Joseph H. Gleason, 1880; William H. Drury, 1881; Albert A. Metcalf, 1882-3; Isaac C. Richardson, 1884; Walter D. Bryant, 1885-6; Albert A. Metcalf, 1887; Fred L. Chamberlain, 1888-9; Charles T. Mead, 1890-91; John W. Lowell, 1892; Albert A. Metcalf, 1893.

The following have been Secretaries: Joseph H. Gleason, 1875; Elliott Moore, 1876; Charles T. Mead, 1877-8; Joseph H. Gleason, 1879; George S. Graham, 1880-82; William C. Metcalf, 1883; Jonas Hubbard, 1884; Mrs. Stephen N. Hubbard, 1885-93.

The purposes of the Patrons of Husbandry are partly educational, partly financial, partly social. During most of its history, the Holden Grange has paid far less attention to the second than to the first and third of these objects. An annual programme will show how these purposes are carried into effect in the regular meetings of the order.

PROGRAMME FOR 1892.

JANUARY 4th.—Installation of Officers.

JANUARY 18th.—Grange Quarterly. Question: What are the arguments for and against free mail delivery in the rural districts?

FEBRUARY 1st.—Does the agricultural literature of the day benefit the farmers?

FEBRUARY 15th.—What constitutes a farmer? Is the farmers' present condition due more to a lack of ability than to circumstances?

FEBRUARY 29th.—Social and Leap Year Supper.

MARCH 7th.—Is it profitable for the farmers to set out young orchards, at the present price of apples?

MARCH 21st.—What is the duty of town officers and their obligation to the town they represent?

APRIL 4th.—*Resolved*, that the cultivation of flowers is a duty rather than a privilege.

APRIL 18th.—Grange Quarterly. Evening with the poets—Longfellow, Whittier and Bryant.

MAY 2d.—Is poultry, as a specialty, more profitable than other kinds of farming?

MAY 16th.—Overseers' night.

MAY 30th.—Special children's meeting.

JUNE 6th.—Can weeds on the farm and in the Grange be made useful?

JUNE 20th.—Flora's meeting.

JULY 4th.—Strawberry Festival.

JULY 18th.—Grange Quarterly. Pests.

AUGUST 1st.—Pound Party.

AUGUST 15th.—Milk making: the cost and comparative profits between making butter, fattening calves and selling milk.

AUGUST 29th.—Special.

SEPTEMBER 5th.—What is the best method of disposing of farm products, and is it best to sell them at times of harvest, or hold them indefinitely for higher prices?

SEPTEMBER 19th.—Literary Salad.

OCTOBER 3d.—Harvest Festival.

OCTOBER 17th.—Grange Quarterly. Ladies' Night.

OCTOBER 31st.—Annual Young People's Meeting.

NOVEMBER 7th.—Gentlemen's Night.

NOVEMBER 21st.—Thanksgiving Entertainment.

DECEMBER 5th.—Election of Officers.

DECEMBER 19th.—To what extent should a wife interest herself in her husband's business?

THE FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' CLUB.

The Farmers' and Mechanics' Club was organized in the Town Hall, November 20th, 1860. A constitution was adopted, the first two articles of which were as follows:

"ART. 1st. This association shall be styled the Holden Farmers' and Mechanics' Club.

"ART. 2d. Its object shall be to promote the interests of agriculture and the welfare of the Farmer and Mechanic, and to disseminate such knowledge, practical and scientific, as shall conduce to that end."

Fifty-four names are signed to this constitution.

Meetings were held once in two weeks, in the evening. Early hours and promptness were among the first lessons taught by the Club. At the third meeting of the Club, December 31st, 1860, it was voted that the next meeting should be called to order at half-past six o'clock in the evening, and that no discussion should be in order after nine o'clock.

In 1870 the annual meeting was not well attended, and it was voted to discuss the question, "Is it profitable to meet to discuss agricultural topics?" After a spirited debate it was decided in the affirmative. Meetings continued to be held in the Town Hall once in two weeks in winter, with varying interest and success, until 1883. It was then voted to discontinue the holding of the meetings at the Hall, and to meet with any member who should invite the Club to his house. This action gave new life and vigor to the Club, and the meetings gained rapidly in attendance and interest. Since that time the meetings have begun at half-past ten in the morning, a collation is served at noon, an hour is then spent in social intercourse, and after the afternoon exercises the meetings close at four o'clock.

Many women have attended the meetings since the change in the arrangements, have been invited to take part in the discussion of questions in which they are especially interested,

are admitted as members of the Club by signing the constitution, and have greatly increased the interest and success of the meetings.

The topics for discussion have gradually taken a widening range, and questions of a social, economic and general character have been canvassed. At the meeting held April 8th, 1891, the question, "Shall we celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Holden?" was discussed, by a unanimous vote decided in the affirmative, and a committee was chosen to call a general meeting of citizens. This discussion and action was the first step taken toward the celebration of this anniversary. Other questions of importance to the town have from time to time come before the Club for debate, and have afterwards been brought before the town at its legal meetings. Not only in these direct results of discussions, but by the intellectual stimulus as well as instruction and correction of debate, and in a quickened, enlightened and elevated public sentiment, the influence of the Club has been felt very widely in the community.

An exhibition of farm and garden products, stock, manufactures and fancy articles was held in the fall for many years. The success of these fairs was a matter of just pride to the town as well as to the Club. Public addresses were given before the Club on these occasions by the following gentlemen : Rev. Elnathan Davis, 1861 ; William P. Paine, D. D., 1862 ; Rev. Lester Williams, Jr., 1863 ; Major Theron E. Hall, 1865 ; Rev. John S. Haradon, 1866 ; Merrill Richardson, D. D., 1867 ; Hon. Amasa Walker, 1868 ; Hon. Henry Chapin, 1869 ; Stephen S. Foster, 1870 ; Rev. Elnathan Davis, 1871 ; Rev. E. Porter Dyer, 1873 ; Prof. C. O. Thompson, 1874 ; Hon. A. A. Putnam, 1879 ; Obadiah B. Hadwen, 1880 ; Charles J. Noyes, 1881 ; William H. Earle, 1882 ; Hon. John E. Russell, 1883 ; Rev. William M. Hubbard, 1884 ; Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, 1886.

The following members of the Club have filled the office of President : Joab S. Holt, 1860 ; Isaac Damon, 1861 ; Archelaus Putnam, 1862 ; Charles W. Gleason, 1863 ; John Holden, 1864 ;

John Adams, 1865; Church Howe, 1866; Charles Flagg, 1867-8; Simon Abbot, 1869; Charles Chaffin, 1870; Charles Flagg, 1872; William Moore, 1873; Joseph H. Gleason, 1874; John Holden, 1875; George W. Bascom, 1876; Charles Flagg, 1877; Charles T. Foster, 1878; George S. Graham, 1879; Jonas Hubbard, 1880; William H. Drury, 1881; Isaac C. Richardson, 1882-3; John Holden, 1884-6; Charles E. Parker, 1887-8; Edwin J. Miles, 1889-90; Frank C. Parker, 1891-2.

The following members have filled the office of Secretary: Joseph H. Gleason, 1860-62; David F. Parmenter, 1863; Joseph H. Gleason, 1864;¹ Abner P. Greenwood, 1870; Joseph H. Gleason, 1872-3; Israel M. Ball, 1874; William H. Walker, 1875; Joseph H. Gleason, 1876; Elliott Moore, 1877; Jonathan Moore, 1878-9; Joseph H. Gleason, 1880; Jonas Hubbard, 1881-6; George S. Graham, 1887-8; Elnathan Truesdell, 1889-90; Franklin Moore, 1891-2.

The following is the list of subjects for discussion for the season, 1892-3:

NOVEMBER 30th.—A. M., Shall the town add largely to the Poor Farm buildings to satisfy the demand of the Poor Farm Association? P. M., What will be the results of the election?

DECEMBER 14th.—A. M., Birds: Friends or enemies. P. M., How can Holden improve her one hundred and thirty miles of road? Shall the State have the supervision?

DECEMBER 27th.—A. M., Helps and hindrances on the farm and in the household. P. M., Reading; What and how.

JANUARY 11th.—A. M., Can the farmers in this vicinity afford to set fruit trees? P. M., The State Dairy Bureau: How will it help the farmer?

JANUARY 25th.—Ladies' Day.

FEBRUARY 8th.—A. M., In town affairs is the Australian system of voting an improvement? P. M., Game and trespass laws: Are the farmers sufficiently protected?

¹ The records of the society from 1865 to 1869, inclusive, are missing.

FEBRUARY 22d.—A. M., Does our large outlay for schools pay? P. M., Taxation as it affects the farmer.

MARCH 8th.—A. M., Silos: Have they come to stay? P. M., Growing and marketing garden vegetables.

MARCH 22d.—A. M., How shall we save our fruits from insect pests? P. M., Shade and ornamental trees on the highways and about our homes: What shall we plant, and how best preserve?

APRIL 5th.—A. M., Shall we practice soiling? P. M., What can we learn at the World's Fair?

Theron E. Hall Post, G. A. R.

It is necessary here only to mention the Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, which was organized in Holden, in January, 1869. An account has been given of its history on pages 191, 192.

WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS.

A Post of the Women's Relief Corps, auxiliary to the Holden Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, Theron E. Hall Post 77, was constituted April 13th, 1891, with twenty-two charter members. About forty ladies have held membership in this Post, and nearly that number belong to it at present.

Besides more formal participation in the relief work of the Post than had been possible before, and helpful ministrations among their own membership, the Relief Corps, on the anniversary of their organization, April 13th, 1892, presented to the Post a handsome silk flag.

CHAPTER XVI.

STATISTICS AND OFFICIALS.

ORIGINAL PROPRIETORS. — MEADOWS. — FIRST TAX LIST. —
FIRST CENSUS. — POPULATION. — DIVISION OF LANDS. — PRO-
DUCTION OF GRAIN. — VALUATIONS. — CLERKS. — TREASUR-
ERS. — SELECTMEN. — REPRESENTATIVES. — SCHOOL COM-
MITTEES. — PARTIES.



ANY papers of interest and importance are preserved upon the books of the Town and among the papers collected by Dr. Damon and now in the Library of the American Antiquarian Society. A few documents, for which place could not be found elsewhere, follow :

“ Here ffollows¹ the Particular Mens Proprietys in the North Part of Worcest^r This 29 July 1724

Tho ^s Palmer Esqr John Oulton & Cornelius Waldo, In right of Capt ⁿ Wing	37
John Smith in Right of Gookin	18
Nath ^l Hincksman &c in Right of Maj ^r Hinksman	15
Adam Winthrop in Right of his ffather	4
Jonas Rice from Atherton	6
Will ^m Hutchinson from Jonas Rice and King	3 }
and from Hezek: Bush and Ward	3 }
James Holmes of Woodstock	4
Joseph Esterbrook Jun ^r of Lexinton from Gershom Rice	5
Eleaz ^r How and Caleb Rice Marlborough from D ^o Rice	3
Tho ^s Jackson &c of Boston in Right of James Butler	4

¹ Proprietors' Records, vol. I., pp. 11, 12.

Nath ^l Jones from Isaac Leonard		4
And the Mill Lott		3
Tho ^s Prentice from his Grand ffather		5
Dan ^l Pounding &c from Pain and Eanas Salter		3
Joshua Rice from Briggit Usher		4
Nath ^l Moore from Isaac Bull	4	
And granted him	3	7
N ^o 3 The heirs of Peter Goulding		5
N ^o 86 Jonath ⁿ Waldo from John Ting and Crossby	4 }	8
N ^o 38 And from Leonard and Benj ^a Allen	4 }	
30 Newton and Britton of Marlborough from Bull	}	4
and from Bull to Jonath ⁿ Moor		
34 Digory Serjeants heirs to Moses Leonard		6
18 Dan ^l Childs heirs of Watertown from Geo: Ripley and Jam ^s Rice		3
68 Stephen Minott from Henry Lee and James Rice	3 }	
51 And from Dauson fforfeited	2 }	5
13 Abraham Harding of Medfield from Dauson and Goulding		5
37 John Biggelo Marlborough from D ^o		5
20 Coll ^l ffitch from Ditto		5
42 Alexand ^r Lovell of Medfield D ^o		5
2 Alexand ^r Gardner Minister		4
36 Benj ^a fflagg in Right of Isaac Leonard		4
Estes Hatch from Tho ^s Brown and Lee	3 }	
And from Jonath ⁿ Hubbard and Lee	3 }	6
Benj ^a fflagg Jun ^r from Tho ^s Brown		3
35 John Hubbard from Sterns and Curtice		5
32 Tho ^s Rice in Right of his ffather Ephraim		3
71 Ephraim Rice Son to Ephraim		3
19 Josiah Rice Son to Ephraim		3
26 Elisha Rice Granted him		3
58 Tho ^s Haggit Granted him		2
6 Jam ^s Holden D ^o		3
64 John Gray from M ^r Gleason		3
Tho ^s Leonard from Tho ^s Wheeler and ffletcher Knap	3 }	
Ditto Leonard &	} from Dan ^l Livermore	7
Dan ^l Biggelo		4 }
23 Ministerial		4
5 School		2

8	John Marble of Marlborough from Josiah Haywood	3
	Dan ^l Haywood from his ffather Deacon Haywood	4
70	David Haynes from Tho ^s Newton	3
17	Aaron Adams by Grant	3
53	Tho ^s Binrēy Allowed Afterwards	4
48	W ^m Payn Dauson fforfeited	2
59	Isaac Taylor by Grant	3
63	Deacon Hapgood of Stow Town and Barnes Miller	3
41	Obediah Wards heirs from Button	3

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“Besides Moses Leonard, Dan^l Davis, Leonard Hoar and John Miriam Stand as Grantees from the Committee for Three Ten Acre Lotts Each, but we Cannot find who possesseth them.

“If these ffour be allowed it will make four Ten Acre Lotts Less than The 278 on the other Side Including Moses Leonards three Tenn Acre Lotts.”

“Memorand^m¹ Here Follows The Names of The Meadows and Numb^r of Their Acres in Each belonging to the North half Part of Worcest^r as They were Surveyed by James Keyes. Paid for the Same £3:6. The 29th of January 1723 by vote at the Propriet^{rs} Meeting S^d Day And Are Viz^t

Stonehouse Meadow	No. 1	25 Acres	
Merry Meeting Meadow	2	14	
Long Meadow	3	25	80 Rods
Middle Meadow	4	16	79
Rock Mead ^w	5	7	29
Mossy Mead ^w	6	11	140
West Mead ^w	7	7	47
Upper Quenepoxit	8	7	51
Nonsuch Meadow	9	54	92
Publick Meadow	10	5	113
Beaver Meadow	11	4	16
Lower Quanapoxit	12	2	“
Trout Meadow	13	17	“

Total 208 Acres 10 Rods”

“Mr Benj Flagg the Surveyor reported that Since the last meeting he had found out one peice of Meadow Containing Six acres, and an Other peice containing two acres which together with the

¹ Proprietors' Books, vol. 1, p. 10.

Two Hundred and Eight acres and Ten Rods Surveyed by James Keyes makes Two Hundred and Sixteen acres and Ten Rods which is the whole of the Meadow Yet found out in the North Half which by Calculation was found to allow one Hundred twenty three Rods and five Sixths of a Rod to Each Ten acre Right besides four acres reserved to the first Minister. Ordered Therefore that Mr Flagg the Surveyor accordingly proceed and Lay out the Same to Each Proprietor as soon as may be”²

The following is the earliest tax list which has been preserved :

“The folowing Rate or Tax is fourty pounds old Tenour granted by the Inhabitance of Holden regurly assembled on the Twenty forth Day of May may Last to Defray y^e charges of building y^e pulpit in part and other nescery charges ariseing in Sd Town

	pols			Housing and land			pausonat estate		
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
James Cowden	0	14	0	0	7	8	0	2	0
James Gray	0	14	0	0	7	8	0	2	5
Cyprian Stevens	0	14	0	0	11	2	0	3	3
John Child	0	14	0	0	3	10	0	1	9
Jotham Biglo	0	14	0	0	6	5	0	2	4
John Biglo	0	14	0	0	15	2	0	3	1
William Nickols	1	08	0	0	10	11	0	2	1
Simon Davis	1	08	0	0	16	1	0	2	6
Samvel Clark	0	14	0	0	2	11	0	1	1
William Clark	0	14	0	0	2	11	0	2	3
David Cowden	0	14	0	0	0	9	0	0	4
John Fletcher	0	14	0	0	3	5	0	0	10
Thomas McMollen	1	08	0	0	5	6	0	2	4
Timothy Brown	0	14	0	0	6	7	0	0	4
Joseph Hubbart	0	14	0	0	7	4	0	1	8
David Brown	0	14	0	0	6	3	0	2	1
Samvel Hubbart	0	14	0	0	8	7	0	1	11
Samvel Haywood	0	14	0	0	6	0	0	1	5
Amos Haywood	0	14	0	0	2	2	0	0	10
James Caldwell	0	14	0	0	3	9	0	2	4
James Smith	1	08	0	0	8	7	0	2	10

Samvel Thomson	0	14	0	0	8	7	0	4	0
Hew Thomson	0	14	0	0	1	8	0	1	8
Jabez Herrington	0	14	0	0	3	4	0	0	0
Samvel Train	0	14	0	0	0	10	0	2	4
Jeremiah Mansfield	0	00	0	0	3	10	0	0	6
Joseph Wooley	0	14	0	0	2	7	0	2	0
Samvel Benet	0	14	0	0	0	9	0	0	8
Phinias Benet	0	14	0	0	0	9	0	0	1
Phinias Ball	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jonathan Lovel	0	14	0	0	6	11	0	5	5
Samvel Pierce	0	14	0	0	3	3	0	0	11
Joseph Rug	1	08	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Josiah Brod	0	14	0	0	7	3	0	0	9
Bezaleel Fisk	0	14	0	0	1	0	0	1	7
Israel Davis	0	00	0	0	6	5	0	0	0
Israel How	0	00	0	0	3	2	0	0	0

£ s d

Some total of y^e whol

40 0 0

List is of old Tener money

The aforegoing List or Rate

of Forty pounds of old Tener money was apportioned
by us the Subscribers And Given under our Hands
at Holden the nineteenth Day of August anna

Domini 1743

William Nickels } assessors
Cyprian Stevens } of
Samvel Pierce } Holden"

The Census taken by families in 1760 has been preserved.
It is as follows :

"David Winch	5	Dea ^e David Fisk	8
Elijah Rice	6	Sam ^{ll} Haywod	9
Masten Holt	5	James Dods	3
Moses Stickney	11	R ^d Flagg	5
Samuel Grant	6	Daniel Black	5
Job Colborn	7	Benj ^a Mead	5
Job Colburn had the widow Newton at his house keep- ing school & Daniel Hinds made his home their		Isaac Bartlet	11
		Isaac Chenery	8
		Israel Davis Jun ^r	7

W ^m Nickols	10	Nathaniel Shepard	8
John Pery	8	Jason Gleazon	8
John Obens	2	Peter Goulden	6
Abra ^a How	3	Sam ^{ll} Hubburd	7
Asa How	7	Joseph Kingsbury	6
Elisha Hubburd	7	Noah Haven	3
Elijah Rice Jun ^r	6	John Black	5
Peter Hubburd	13	Jabez Harrington	11
W ^m Harris	9	James Cheney	6
Elisha Mirrick	8	Francis Willison	4
Aaron Newton	3	Jon ^a How	6
Joseph Morse	10	Ebenez ^r Melet	5
Sam ^{ll} Estabrook Jun ^r	4	Joseph Greenwood	5
Tho ^s Grout	5	Sam ^{ll} Estabrook	8
Andrew Smith	11	Josiah Cheney	8
Dea ^c Joseph Hubbard	7	Charls Heywood	13
Jonas Gale	11	Amos Heywood	9
W ^m Marshal	7	Israel Davis	8
Hezekiah Walker	3	Josiah Broad	7
Seth Snow	7	Sam ^{ll} Hubburd jr	8
Edmond Hall	4	Asa Lovel	4
John Winch	9	Peter Noice	2
Josiah Broad Jun ^r	4	Ephraim Holt	5
John Abbot	12	Bezaleel Fisk	6
Josiah Straton	8	Inceace Stearns	9
Jon ^a Wheeler	4	Judah Wright	6
Abel How	3	Joseph Davis	5
Henry Taft	9	Thomas Kimbal	8
Benj ^a Allen	6	Jeremiah Fuller	5
Israul Goodale	5	Daniel Perry	5
Sam ^{ll} Chaffen	9	Jesse Allen	5
Ephrain Smith	6		
Stephen White	6		
Jon ^a Lovel	8		
Moses Wheeler Jr	2		
W ^m Raymond	7		

"745¹ is the No of Inhabitants in Holden in 1760"

¹ This number is presumably an error in adding, as the total of the numbers given is five hundred and thirty-five.

The population at the various censuses since has been as follows :

* 1765 ¹	495	† 1855 ³	2,114
* 1776	749	† 1860	1,945
† 1790 ²	1,077	† 1865	1,846
† 1800	1,142	† 1870	2,062
† 1810	1,072	† 1875	2,180
† 1820	1,402	† 1880	2,499
† 1830	1,719	† 1885	2,471
† 1840	1,874	† 1890	2,637
† 1850	1,933		

The following table gives some items from the valuations in 1781,⁴ when the first general valuation was made ; in 1840, the last preceding the issue of Dr. Damon's History, and in 1892, the last which has been taken.

	1781	1840	1892
Polls,	167	456	639
Houses,	170	263	440
Horses,	106	221	376
Neat Cattle,	887	1274	1082
Sheep,	1234	347	105
Total Valuation, \$89,604.13		\$576,622	\$1,108,472

¹ Figures marked (*) are from Colonial Census.

² Figures marked (†) are from United States Census.

³ Figures marked (‡) are from State Census.

⁴ This valuation contains the following item: "Carriages of all sorts, none," to which statement Dr. Damon appends this note: "Rev. Mr. Avery was among the first to ride in a chaise, and old people now [1841] can remember when there was not a wagon or chaise in town." Damon History, p. 144.

The division of lands in town is reported by acres at different times as follows :

	*1781 ¹	†1781 ²	†1791	†1801	†1811	†1821	†1831	1840	†1885 ³
Tillage,		348	446	529	557	609	712	824	1029.5
Mowing,		692	682	754	871	871	1295	2135	
Meadow,	493	562	634	907	732	1114	1200	952	2453
Pasturage,	1579	1906	2624	3810	4393	4511	6562	7499	7517.5
Woodland,	10464			4217	4497	3042	4468	4184	6038.25
Unimproved				4977	4892	3900	3912	4655	837
Covered by water,				40	100	200	250		
Used for roads,				425	355	425	300		
Unimprovable,				3213	3972		2458	1310	105

The following table shows the reported production by bushels of the various grains at different times.

	†1801	†1811	†1821	†1831	*1840	†1885
Wheat,	358	209	204		67	2
Barley,	185	164	115		50	107
Rye,	2107	747	800	817	1073	679
Indian Corn,	5208	5557	5311	6225	6466	7319

¹ The figures below the years marked thus (*) are from Damon History, pp. 144, 145.

² The figures below the years marked thus (†) are from a volume of miscellaneous collections in the Library of the American Antiquarian Society.

³ The figures below the year marked thus (‡) are from the Massachusetts Census of 1885.

TOWN CLERKS.

Cyprian Stevens,	1741 - 1746.
Samuel Heywood,	1747 - 1751.
Samuel Peirce,	1752.
Joseph Greenwood,	1753.
Samuel Peirce,	1754 - 1757.
Israel Davis,	1758 - 1774.
John Child, Jr.,	1775 - 1777.
Israel Davis,	1778 - 1781.
John Child,	1782.
David Fisk,	1783 - 1786.
Noah Haven,	1787.
David Fisk,	1788 - 1789.
John Dodds,	1790 - 1801.
William Dodds,	1802.
Paul Davis,	1803 - 1820.
Paul Davis, Jr.	1821 - 1857. ¹
John E. Chaffin,	1858 - 1863.
Isaac Damon,	1864 - 1867.
Samuel W. Armington,	1868 - 1869.
George F. Rogers,	1870 - 1873. ²
Samuel W. Armington,	1873.
Isaac Damon,	1874 - 1892.
Samuel W. Armington,	1893.

¹ At the retirement of Major Davis from his office, the town passed the following resolutions, which are unique in the history of the town.

"WHEREAS, Maj. Paul Davis has served this town as Clerk for the long period of thirty-seven years, and has performed the duties of the office to the entire satisfaction of the town, and WHEREAS, he has this day voluntarily retired from the office, therefore

"*Resolved*, That the thanks of this town be thus publicly tendered to Maj. Davis for the services he has rendered the town in the capacity of its Clerk.

"*Resolved*, That a copy of this vote, signed by the Moderator and Clerk, be tendered to Maj. Davis, and that the same be entered upon the records of the Town.

T. E. HALL, Moderator.
JOHN E. CHAFFIN, Clerk."

² Resigned June 17th, 1873.

TOWN TREASURERS.

William Nichols,	1741.
John Bigelow,	1742.
William Nichols,	1743.
Samuel Thompson,	1744.
William Nichols,	1745.
Samuel Heywood,	1746 - 1749.
John Bigelow,	1750.
Israel Davis,	1751.
Joseph Hubbard,	1752 - 1755.
Israel Davis,	1756 - 1758.
Jonathan Lovell,	1759.
Bezaleel Fiske,	1760 - 1761.
Samuel Hubbard,	1762 - 1771.
Nathan Harrington,	1772 - 1778.
Paul Davis,	1779. ¹
Nathan Harrington,	1779 - 1783.
James Davis,	1784 - 1791.
Elisha Hubbard,	1702 - 1803.
Elnathan Davis,	1804.
Ethan Davis,	1805 - 1806.
Samuel Damon,	1807.
Ethan Davis,	1808 - 1826.
Samuel Damon,	1827 - 1839.
Paul Davis,	1840 - 1851.
Charles L. Knowlton,	1852 - 1855.
Joseph Davis,	1856 - 1857.
Charles Knowlton,	1858 - 1870.
Charles Flagg,	1871 - 1872.
Samuel W. Armington,	1873 - 1876. ²
Charles Flagg,	1876.
Leonard B. Brigham,	1877 - 1881.
Fred H. Fales,	1882 - 1885.
Leonard B. Brigham,	1886 - 1887.
Henry W. Warren,	1888 - 1893.

¹ Till July 5th.² Resigned May 1st, 1876.

SELECTMEN.

1741.

Simon Davis,
John Bigelow,
Cyprian Stevens.

1742.

Simon Davis,
John Bigelow,
Samuel Thompson.

1743.

Simon Davis,
John Bigelow,
Samuel Pierce.

1744.

Cyprian Stevens,
John Bigelow,
Samuel Heywood.

1745.

John Bigelow,
Cyprian Stevens,
David Brown.

1746.

John Bigelow,
Samuel Pierce,
Cyprian Stevens.

1747.

Samuel Hubbard,
Jonathan Lovell,
William Nichols.

1748.

Samuel Pierce,
John Bigelow,
Samuel Heywood.

1749.

John Bigelow,
Samuel Pierce,
Samuel Heywood.

1750.

Samuel Peirce,
John Bigelow,
Samuel Heywood.

1751.

John Bigelow,
Samuel Peirce,
Samuel Heywood.

1752.

Samuel Peirce,
Richard Flagg,
Jonathan Lovell.

1753.

Richard Flagg,
Israel Davis,
Samuel Hubbard,
Joseph Hubbard,
Joseph Greenwood.

1754.

Richard Flagg,
Israel Davis,
Samuel Hubbard,
Joseph Hubbard,
Samuel Thompson.

1759.

Israel Davis,
Samuel Heywood,
Jonathan Lovell,
Benjamin Howard,
Bezaleel Fisk.

1755.

John Bigelow,
Richard Flagg,
Israel Davis,
Samuel Hubbard,
Joseph Hubbard.

1760.

Israel Davis,
Richard Flagg,
Samuel Heywood,
Bezaleel Fisk,
Jonathan Lovell.

1756.

Samuel Peirce,
Richard Flagg,
John Bigelow,
James Boyd,
Amos Heywood.

1761.

Joseph Greenwood,
Joseph Hubbard,
Jonathan Rice,
David Fisk,
John Bigelow.

1757.

Samuel Pierce,
Richard Flagg,
Samuel Hubbard,
Amos Heywood,
James Boyd.

1762.

Amos Heywood,
Samuel Hubbard,
John Child,
Joseph Hubbard,
David Fisk.

1758.

Samuel Peirce,
James Boyd,
Richard Flagg,
Israel Davis,
John Child.

1763.

Richard Flagg,
Israel Davis,
Amos Heywood,
Jonathan Wheeler,
John Child.

1764.

Israel Davis,
Joseph Hubbard,
Samuel Heywood,
Samuel Hubbard,
John Child.

1769.

Israel Davis,
David Fisk,
Benjamin Mead,
Paul Raymond,
Jonathan Rice.

1765.

Israel Davis,
Joseph Hubbard,
John Child,
Isaac Smith,
Benjamin Mead.

1770.

Israel Davis,
Jonathan Rice,
David Fisk,
John Child,
Benjamin Mead.

1766.

Israel Davis,
Samuel Heywood,
Joseph Hubbard,
John Child,
Benjamin Mead.

1771.

Israel Davis,
John Child,
David Fisk,
Jonathan Rice,
Benjamin Mead.

1767.

Israel Davis,
John Child,
Joseph Hubbard,
Jonathan Rice,
Benjamin Mead.

1772.

John Child,
Joseph Hubbard,
Jonathan Wheeler,
Andrew Smith,
James Davis.

1768.

Israel Davis,
Jonathan Rice,
Benjamin Mead,
Paul Raymond,
Ignatius Goulding.

1773.

John Child,
Benjamin Mead,
Joseph Hubbard,
James Davis,
Paul Raymond.

1774.

John Child,
Benjamin Mead,
James Davis,
Jonathan Rice,
Paul Raymond.

1779.

James Davis,
Richard Flagg,
Benjamin Mead,
Jason Gleason,
John Perry.

1775.

John Child,
Jonathan Rice,
James Davis,
Benjamin Mead,
Paul Raymond.

1780.

Richard Flagg,
Moses Smith,
Amos Heywood,
John Perry,
Samuel Thompson.

1776.

John Child,
Jonathan Rice,
Paul Raymond,
Moses Smith,
James Davis.

1781.

John Perry,
Elisha Hubbard,
Noah Haven,
Francis Willson,
Paul Goodale.

1777.

David Fisk,
Paul Raymond,
James Davis,
Moses Smith,
John Child, Jr.

1782.

John Child,
Elisha Hubbard,
William Nichols,
Samuel Thompson,
Josiah Stratton.

1778.

David Fisk,
Moses Smith,
James Davis,
Jason Gleason,
John Perry.

1783.

David Fisk,
John Child,
Elisha Hubbard,
Samuel Thompson,
Noah Haven.

1784.

James Davis,
Ebenezer Estabrook,
Henry Taft,
Israel Davis, Jr.
Elisha Mirick.

1789.

Josiah Stratton,
Isaac Chenery,
Henry Taft,
John Davis,
David Smith.

1785.

Nathan Harrington,
Ebenezer Estabrook,
Isaac Chenery,
Israel Davis, Jr.
Elisha Mirick.

1790.

Josiah Stratton,
Ebenezer Estabrook,
Henry Taft,
John Davis,
David Smith.

1786.

Israel Davis, Jr.
Ebenezer Estabrook,
Elisha Hubbard,
Isaac Chenery,
John Dodd.

1791.

Josiah Stratton,
Ebenezer Estabrook,
Henry Taft,
John Davis,
David Smith.

1787.

Israel Davis, Jr.
Samuel Hubbard,
Elisha Hubbard,
Paul Goodale,
Isaiah Brown.

1792.

Samuel Hubbard,
John Davis,
George Webb,
David Smith,
Samuel Damon.

1788.

Josiah Stratton,
Ebenezer Estabrook,
Isaac Chenery,
Jason Gleason,
Francis Willson.

1793.

Samuel Hubbard,
John Davis,
George Webb,
David Smith,
Samuel Damon.

1794.

Samuel Hubbard,
Ebenezer Estabrook,
David Smith,
John Dodd,
Samuel Damon.

1799.

Samuel Hubbard,
Ebenezer Estabrook,
Peter Hubbard,
Lemuel Abbott,
James Dodd.

1795.

Samuel Hubbard,
John Dodd,
David Smith,
Samuel Damon,
William Drury.

1800.

Samuel Hubbard,
Ebenezer Estabrook,
Peter Hubbard,
Lemuel Abbott,
James Dodd.

1796.

John Dodd,
John Davis,
David Smith,
Samuel Damon,
William Drury.

1801.

Samuel Hubbard,
Ebenezer Estabrook,
Lemuel Abbott,
William Drury,
Joseph Daniels.

1797.

John Dodd,
John Davis,
David Smith,
Samuel Damon,
William Drury.

1802.

Ebenezer Estabrook,
Lemuel Abbott,
William Drury,
Joseph Daniels,
Elnathan Davis.

1798.

Samuel Hubbard,
Ebenezer Estabrook,
Peter Hubbard,
Lemuel Abbott,
Elnathan Davis.

1803.

Ebenezer Estabrook,
Lemuel Abbott,
William Drury,
Joseph Daniels,
Elnathan Davis.

1804.

Lemuel Abbott,
William Drury,
Elnathan Davis,
Tilla Chaffin,
Asa Wheeler.

1809.

Asa Wheeler,
Ethan Davis,
Heman Richardson,
Samuel Heywood,
Asa Greenwood.

1805.

Lemuel Abbott,
William Drury,
Tilla Chaffin,
Asa Wheeler,
Ethan Davis.

1810.

Ethan Davis,
Heman Richardson,
Samuel Heywood,
Asa Greenwood,
Lemuel Davis.

1806.

Lemuel Abbott,
Tilla Chaffin,
Asa Wheeler,
Ethan Davis,
Heman Richardson.

1811.

Ethan Davis,
Heman Richardson,
Samuel Heywood,
Asa Greenwood,
Lemuel Davis.

1807.

Tilla Chaffin,
Asa Wheeler,
Ethan Davis,
Heman Richardson,
Samuel Heywood.

1812.

Ethan Davis,
Asa Greenwood,
Lemuel Davis,
John Chaffin,
Abner Perry.

1808.

Tilla Chaffin,
Asa Wheeler,
Ethan Davis,
Heman Richardson,
Samuel Heywood.

1813.

Ethan Davis,
Asa Greenwood,
Lemuel Davis,
John Chaffin,
Abner Perry.

1814.

Ethan Davis,
Asa Greenwood,
Lemuel Davis,
John Chaffin,
Abner Perry.

1819.

Paul Davis, Jr.,
Samuel Damon,
Silas Flagg,
James Bailey,
Daniel Knowlton.

1815.

Ethan Davis,
Asa Greenwood,
John Chaffin,
Abner Perry,
Silas Flagg.

1820.

Samuel Damon,
Silas Flagg,
Daniel Knowlton,
Abner Perry,
John Davis.

1816.

Ethan Davis,
Asa Greenwood,
John Chaffin,
Paul Davis, Jr.,
Samuel Damon.

1821.

Samuel Damon,
Silas Flagg,
Abner Perry,
John Davis,
James Estabrook.

1817.

Ethan Davis,
Asa Greenwood,
Paul Davis, Jr.,
Samuel Damon,
Silas Flagg.

1822.

Silas Flagg,
Abner Perry,
James Estabrook,
William Metcalf,
Samuel Foster.

1818.

Asa Greenwood,
Paul Davis, Jr.,
Samuel Damon,
Silas Flagg,
James Bailey.

1823.

Silas Flagg,
Abner Perry,
James Estabrook,
William Metcalf,
Samuel Foster.

1824.

Silas Flagg,
Abner Perry,
James Estabrook,
William Metcalf,
Samuel Foster.

1829.

Samuel Damon,
Thomas Howe,
Samuel W. Hubbard,
Farnum White,
Charles Chaffin.

1825.

Silas Flagg,
Abner Perry,
William Metcalf,
Samuel Foster,
William Flagg.

1830.

Samuel Damon,
Farnum White,
Charles Chaffin,
William Metcalf,
George Flagg,

1826.

Silas Flagg,
Abner Perry,
William Metcalf,
William Flagg,
Thomas J. Davis.

1831.

Farnum White,
Charles Chaffin,
George Flagg,
Thomas Howe,
Tilla Chaffin, Jr.

1827.

Samuel Damon,
William Flagg,
Thomas Howe,
Samuel W. Hubbard,
Farnum White.

1832.

Charles Chaffin,
Thomas Howe,
George Flagg,
John Lovell,
John F. Smith.

1828.

Samuel Damon,
William Flagg,
Thomas Howe,
Samuel W. Hubbard,
Farnum White.

1833.

Charles Chaffin,
George Flagg,
Tilla Chaffin, Jr.,
Dennis Davis,
Barney Howe.

1834.

Charles Chaffin,
Thomas Howe,
John Lovell,
Thomas J. Davis,
Stillman Estabrook.

1839.

Willis Smith,
Samuel D. Greenwood,
Jonathan Chaffin,
Lyman Bryant,
James Winch.

1835.

Charles Chaffin,
Thomas Howe,
Thomas J. Davis,
Stillman Estabrook,
John M. Goodell.

1840

Samuel D. Greenwood,
Lyman Bryant,
James Winch,
Thomas J. Davis,
George Flagg.

1836.

Samuel Damon,
Thomas J. Davis,
Stillman Estabrook,
John M. Goodell,
Joel Walker.

1841.

Charles Chaffin,
Thomas J. Davis,
George Flagg,
John Richardson,
James S. Moore.

1837.

Paul Davis,
Barney Howe,
Joel Walker,
Willis Smith,
Jacob Howard.

1842.

Charles Chaffin,
Thomas J. Davis,
James S. Moore,
John Richardson,
John Watson.

1838.

Paul Davis,
Willis Smith,
Samuel D. Greenwood,
Jonathan Chaffin,
John Jefferson.

1843.

Samuel D. Greenwood,
James S. Moore,
John Watson,
Willis Smith,
Ethan Davis.

1844.

Samuel D. Greenwood,
David Davis,
Lyman Bryant,
Willis Smith,
Ethan Davis.

1849.

Charles Chaffin,
Asa Broad,
Willard Allen,
Nathan Howe,
Stillman Hubbard.

1845.

Samuel D. Greenwood,
David Davis,
Lyman Bryant,
George W. Bascom,
Asa Broad.

1850.

Samuel D. Greenwood,
Ira Broad,
Willard Allen,
Nathan Howe,
William Howe.

1846.

Samuel D. Greenwood,
Lyman Bryant,
George W. Bascom,
Asa Broad,
Stillman Hubbard.

1851.

Willard Allen,
Nathan Howe,
Ira Broad,
William Howe,
John Richardson.

1847.

Samuel D. Greenwood,
Lyman Bryant,
George W. Bascom,
Asa Broad,
Elisha Chaffin.

1852.

Samuel D. Greenwood,
John Richardson,
Alfred Sawyer,
Charles Bryant,
Dexter Broad.

1848.

Le Baron Putnam,
Asa Broad,
Elisha Chaffin,
Isaac Damon,
Willard Allen.

1853.

Samuel D. Greenwood,
John Richardson,
Charles Bryant,
Alfred Sawyer,
Danford Hall.

1854.

Charles Byrant,
Joseph Davis,
Silas Flagg, Jr.,
Joab S. Holt,
John W. Howe.

1859.

Ira Broad,
Sumner Chamberlain,
George S. Goddard,
Alfred Chaffin,
John E. Chaffin.

1855.

Joseph Davis,
Samuel D. Hubbard,
Timothy Parker,
Newell Moore,
William C. Metcalf.

1860.

Isaac Damon,
Sumner Chamberlain,
George S. Goddard,
John E. Chaffin,
James E. Cheney.

1856.

William C. Metcalf,
Timothy Parker,
Jonathan M. Ladd,
Simon Hubbard,
Newell Moore.

1861.

Sumner Chamberlain,
John E. Chaffin,
James E. Cheney,
Charles Turner,
William H. Walker.

1857.

Joseph Davis,
Ira Broad,
William Howe,
Sumner Chamberlain,
Augustus F. Damon.

1862.

John E. Chaffin,
Charles Turner,
William H. Walker,
George Bascom,
Martin V. B. Jefferson.

1858.

Ira Broad,
Sumner Chamberlain,
Augustus F. Damon,
George S. Goddard,
Alfred Chaffin.

1863.

Ira Broad,
Sumner Chamberlain,
Martin V. B. Jefferson,
J. Warren Rogers,
William H. Drury.

1864.

Ira Broad,
Sumner Chamberlain,
Martin V. B. Jefferson,
J. Warren Rogers,
William H. Drury.

1869.

Martin V. B. Jefferson,
George Howe,
Charles Flagg,
Samuel D. Hubbard,
James H. Wright.

1865.

Ira Broad,
Sumner Chamberlain,
J. Warren Rogers,
Church Howe,
Alfred Sawyer.

1870.

Martin V. B. Jefferson,
George Howe,
Charles Flagg,
Samuel D. Hubbard,
James H. Wright.

1866.

Ira Broad,
Sumner Chamberlain,
J. Warren Rogers,
Church Howe,
Martin V. B. Jefferson.

1871.

Samuel D. Hubbard,
Charles Flagg,
Austin W. Ward.

1867.

Ira Broad,
Martin V. B. Jefferson,
J. Warren Rogers,
Austin Flagg,
George Howe.

1872.

Charles Flagg,
Austin W. Ward,
John Adams,
James H. Wright,
Samuel Warren.

1868.

Ira Broad,
Martin V. B. Jefferson,
J. Warren Rogers,
George Howe,
Charles Flagg.

1873.

Austin W. Ward,
Samuel Warren,
James H. Wright.

1874.

James H. Wright,
William Howe,
William H. Fairbanks.

1875.

Martin V. B. Jefferson,
William H. Fairbanks,
Edward W. Merrick,
George Howe,
James T. Rood,
William H. Drury.¹

1876.

William C. Metcalf,
Charles Flagg,
William H. Drury.

1877.

William C. Metcalf,
William H. Drury,
Henry W. Warren.

1878.

William C. Metcalf,
William H. Drury,
Henry W. Warren.

1879.

Henry W. Warren,
Gates Chapman,
Charles Dawson.

1880.

Gates Chapman,
Charles Dawson,
Fred T. Holt,
Isaac Damon.²

1881.

Charles Dawson,
Waldo E. Austin,
Samuel W. Armington.

1882.

Waldo E. Austin,
Isaac Damon,
Fred T. Holt.

1883.

Waldo E. Austin,
Isaac Damon,
Fred T. Holt.

1884.

Henry W. Warren,
Fred T. Holt,
Albert A. Metcalf.

1885.

Isaac Damon,
Charles E. Parker,
* Artemas D. Bascom.

1886.

Isaac Damon,
Charles E. Parker,
Artemas D. Bascom.

1887.

William H. Drury,
William J. Prendergast,
Albert A. Metcalf.

Chosen June 1st in place of Martin V. B. Jefferson, resigned.

² Chosen October 23d in place of Gates Chapman, resigned.

1888.

Isaac Damon,
Charles E. Parker,
William J. Prendergast.

1891.

Stillman F. Morse,
Albert A. Metcalf,
Emory Rogers.

1889.

Isaac Damon,
Charles E. Parker,
William J. Prendergast.

1892.

Stillman F. Morse,
Albert A. Metcalf,
Emory Rogers.

1890.

Charles E. Parker,
Stillman F. Morse,
Thomas Hennessey.

1893.

Dennis W. Harrington,
Fred T. Holt,
Albert A. Metcalf.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

After 1823 committees were annually appointed to visit and report upon the schools of the town. They had, however, no responsibility for the management of them. After the transfer of the schools from the districts to the town, the district system was for a time perpetuated by the appointment upon the committee of one representative from each of the old districts. In 1877 the number of the committee was reduced to three and it fully assumed its proper responsibility and authority. Since that time the following have served upon the School Committee :

1877.

Waldo E. Austin,
Jonathan Moore,
John K. Chase.

1879.

John K. Chase,
J. Calvin Spaulding,
Henry M. Rogers,
Aldin G. Davis,¹
Edward W. Merrick.²

1878.

Jonathan Moore,
John K. Chase,
J. Calvin Spaulding.

¹ Chosen April 23d, in place of John K. Chase, resigned.

² Chosen December 22d, in place of J. C. Spaulding, resigned.

1880.

Henry M. Rogers,
Edward W. Merrick,
Emma R. Ross.

1881.

Henry M. Rogers,
Edward W. Merrick,
Joseph H. Gleason.

1882.

Henry M. Rogers,
Edward W. Merrick,
Joseph H. Gleason,
Waldo E. Austin.¹

1883.

Waldo E. Austin,
Henry M. Rogers,
Aldin G. Davis,
Edward P. Thompson,
Samuel Warren,
Joseph H. Gleason,
Clifford W. Stickney,²
Israel M. Ball.³

1884.

Waldo E. Austin,
Aldin G. Davis,
Edward P. Thompson,
Samuel Warren,
Clifford W. Stickney.

1885.

Waldo E. Austin,
Edward P. Thompson,
Clifford W. Stickney,
Samuel Warren.

1886.

Edward P. Thompson,
Charles E. Parker,
James McCloskey.⁴

1887.

Waldo E. Austin,
Edward P. Thompson,⁵
Charles E. Parker,
Sarah E. Davis,
Marion E. Warren,
Mary D. Ball.

1888.

Waldo E. Austin,
Charles E. Parker,
Marion E. Warren,
Mary D. Ball,
Charles W. Phillips,
James A. Holden.

1889.

Waldo E. Austin,
Marion E. Warren,
Charles E. Parker,
Mary D. Ball,
Charles W. Phillips,
James A. Holden.

¹ Chosen March 30th, in place of Edward W. Merrick, resigned.

² Chosen May 24th, in place of Joseph H. Gleason, resigned.

³ Chosen September 10th, in place of Henry M. Rogers, resigned.

⁴ Resigned July 23d. ⁵ Resigned November 2d.

1890.

Waldo E. Austin,
 Mary D. Ball,
 Charles E. Parker,
 James A. Holden,
 Marion E. Warren,
 Charles W. Phillips.

1892.

Waldo E. Austin,
 Marion E. Warren,
 Charles W. Phillips,
 Mary D. Ball,
 James A. Holden,
 Charles E. Parker.¹

1891.

Waldo E. Austin,
 Mary D. Ball,
 Charles E. Parker,
 James A. Holden,
 Marion E. Warren,
 Charles W. Phillips.

1893.

Waldo E. Austin,
 Marion E. Warren,
 James A. Holden,
 Clifford W. Stickney,
 Mary D. Ball.²

REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GENERAL COURT.

John Child, Jr.,	1780.
Joseph Davis,	1781.
John Child, Jr.,	1782, 1783.
Israel Davis, Jr.,	1786.
Josiah Stratton,	1787.
John Child, Jr.,	1790.
	1792, 1793,
John Dodd,	1795, 1796,
	1798, 1800,
	1801.
William Drury,	1802.
Elnathan Davis,	1803, 1804.
William Drury,	1805 - 1813.
Ebenezer Estabrook,	1814 - 1816.
Ethan Davis,	1817.
Ebenezer Estabrook,	1819.
William Drury,	1820.
Ethan Davis,	1821.

¹ Chosen April 4th, in place of Charles W. Phillips, resigned.

² Chosen April 22d, in place of C. W. Stickney, resigned.

Samuel Damon,	1823, 1824.
Ethan Davis,	1826.
Silas Flagg,	1828, 1829.
Asa Broad,	1830.
Asa Broad, }	
Samuel Damon, }	1831.
Samuel Damon, }	
Charles Chaffin, }	1833, 1834.
Charles Chaffin, }	
Paul Davis, }	1835.
Paul Davis, }	
Silas Flagg, }	1836.
Paul Davis, }	
Silas Flagg, }	1837.
Willis Smith,	1838.
Silas Flagg, }	
Tilla Chaffin, }	1839, 1840.
John Richardson,	1841, 1842.
William Flagg,	1843.
Ira Broad,	1844.
David Davis,	1845.
Samuel D. Greenwood,	1847, 1848.
James E. Cheney,	1849.
Ira Broad,	1850.
George W. Bascom,	1851, 1852.
Charles L. Knowlton,	1853.
Charles Burnett,	1854.
William C. Metcalf,	1855.
Silas Flagg,	1856.
Jonathan M. Ladd,	1857. ¹
Isaac Damon,	1858, 1861.
Nathan Howe,	1864.
Theron E. Hall,	1866.
Samuel Warren,	1867.
Isaac N. Ross,	1871, 1872.

¹ Since 1857 Holden has been districted with other towns for the election of a Representative. In 1857 it was classed with Paxton and West Boylston; in 1866, with Oakham, Princeton and Rutland: in 1876, with Leicester, Paxton and Rutland: in 1886, with Hubbardston, Paxton, Princeton and Westminster.

William Howe,	1878.
Henry W. Warren,	1882, 1885.
Samuel W. Armington,	1887.
Stillman F. Morse,	1892.

John Child represented the town in the Provincial Congress in 1775, and in the "Great and General Court" the same year. In 1776 and 1777 James Davis was sent to the General Court.

Richard Flagg was sent in 1779 to the Convention that framed the Constitution. Charles L. Knowlton was delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1853.

POLITICAL PARTIES.

In 1788 Moses Gill received nineteen votes for Presidential Elector, and in 1792, fourteen, in each case the largest number received by any candidate. The electoral votes were in both cases, of course, cast for Washington. In 1796, Artemas Ward and Nathaniel Paine each received fourteen votes for Elector. In 1804 one hundred and twenty-nine votes were cast for the Federalist candidate, and twenty-one for the Republican. In 1812 the same parties received respectively one hundred and fifty-seven and eleven. In 1824 all the votes cast, eighty-six in number, were for John Quincy Adams, and four years later Jackson had but three votes to ninety-six for Adams. For re-election in 1832, Jackson had but ten votes, while there were eight for the Anti-Masonic candidates, and one hundred and seventy-four for the "National Republican" party. In 1836 the Whigs polled one hundred and seventy votes for Webster to forty-nine cast for Van Buren, and in 1840 two hundred and fifty-seven for Harrison to sixty-nine for Van Buren. In 1844 Clay had two hundred and twenty-five votes, Polk forty-four and Birney sixty-four. In 1848 the Democrats polled seventy for Taylor, the Whigs thirty-two for Cass, while while two hundred and three were cast for Van Buren as candi-

date of the Free Soil party. In 1852 there were one hundred and forty-four Free Soil votes, one hundred and twenty-four Whig and forty-one Democratic. Four years later the parties were aligned as Republican and Democratic, as has been the case ever since, Fremont receiving two hundred and forty-five to Buchanan's thirty-two, and twelve "Know-nothing" votes were cast for Fillmore. In 1860 the vote stood two hundred and thirty-nine Republican to twenty-six Democratic; in 1864, two hundred and fifteen to twenty-five; in 1868, two hundred and thirty-one to twenty-five; in 1872, two hundred and twenty-five Republican and not a solitary Democratic vote; in 1876, two hundred and seventy-two to ninety-one; in 1880, two hundred and thirty-one to seventy; in 1884, two hundred and seventeen to seventy-two; in 1888, two hundred and forty-four to eighty-five; in 1892, two hundred and twenty-seven to one hundred and fifteen. The Prohibition vote was eight in 1884, twenty-two in 1888 and eleven in 1892.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE HOLDEN CALENDAR.



THE LEAST curiosity may be gratified by having some of the most important and otherwise interesting events in the history of the town arranged according to the month and day of their occurrence. No attempt has been made to reduce the dates previous to the adoption of new style to the present reckoning. They have been given as reckoned at the time.

JANUARY.

January 1st, 1760. William Fisher died, "froze so as to bring on his death."

January 2d, 1793. Rev. Joseph Davis preached Semi-Centennial sermon.

January 6th, 1885. The chapel at Jefferson dedicated.

January 9th, 1875. The Holden Grange organized.

January 9th, 1741. The Act of Incorporation signed by the Governor.

January 14th, 1787. Under this date the church records mention "the noonhouse of Lt. Hubbard."

January 17th, 1888. Father Joyce died.

¹The Damon History (note, p. 28) says that "there were a number of *noon-houses* near, for the accommodation of persons living at a distance." One of these buildings is still remembered. It stood opposite the church, near the present corner of the cemetery. The middle of the single room was occupied by a great circular fireplace, the smoke from which found its way up and out through a central chimney. Round this the women and children (the men went to the tavern opposite) gathered in the intermission from the fireless meeting-house, warmed themselves, roasted apples to accompany their luncheons brought from home, and drank mugs of cider, barrels of which were every fall stored in the cellar.

January 19th, 1869. Charter granted for Theron E. Hall Post, G. A. R.

January 26th, 1773. Rev. Joseph Davis dismissed by the Town.

January 29th, 1789. Under this date the town records contain the following :

“ Voted that Mr Samuel Estabrook Shall have liberty to Cut off the wood now on the acre of Land which his exelency John Hancock Esqr proposes to give the Town of Holden, when Said Hancock Sends the Town a Deed (excepting the Chestnut timber for Fencing.)”

January 30th, 1874. The Congregational church re-dedicated.

FEBRUARY.

February 5th, 1749. The church records contain the following :

“ By the Chh and Congregation, Voted, That the next Lecture be turned into a Fast on account of the Sickness and Death among us.”

February 6th, 1677. Second Indian Deed.

February 10th, 1882. The Dr. Chenery house, built by Rev. Mr. Bardwell, on the present site of the Damon Memorial, burned.

February 20th, 1832. The civil contract with Rev. Mr. Bardwell dissolved by vote of the Town.

February 21st, 1815. First Post Office established.

February 22d, 1800. Public exercises in honor of Washington.

February 22d, 1869. First meeting of Grand Army Post.

MARCH.

March 2d, 1855. Samuel D. Greenwood killed by a falling tree.

March 3d, 1740. Worcester consented to the setting off of the North half.

March 3d, 1888. John Burns found frozen to death.

March 4th, 1793. The Town voted £400 for building School-houses.

March 4th, 1799. Rev. Joseph Davis died.

March 4th, 1815. The Town had on interest \$4,692.98.

March 5th, 1824. Rev. Joseph Avery died.

March 12th, 1888. Great blizzard. Snow bills in spring of 1888, \$1,053.40.

March 27th, 1741. John Bigelow authorized to call first Town Meeting.

APRIL.

April 7th, 1865. Illumination and rejoicing over the surrender of Lee's army. The following Sunday Dr. Paine preached from the text, "Babylon is fallen." On the afternoon and evening of April 14th there was a more formal celebration.

April 13th, 1891. Women's Relief Corps constituted.

April 19th, 1775. Two companies march from Holden at the Lexington alarm.

April 20th, 1861. Holden Rifles started for the seat of war, and the town voted \$1,500 for them and their families.

April 21st, 1861. Women work at Town Hall all day for the soldiers.

April 30th, 1808. The house of Captain James and Ethan Davis burned. A daughter of Mrs. Winch perished in the flames.

MAY.

May 2d, 1856. The dam at North Woods gave way, breaking the dam at French Woods.

May 4th, 1741. First town meeting for the election of officers.

May 4th, 1841. Centennial Celebration.

May 11th, 1824. A large dwelling house owned by Ethan Davis burned.

May 13th, 1740. First Petition for Incorporation.

May 13th, 1867. The dam at Alfred Morse's mill gave way and several bridges and buildings were swept away.

May 19th, 1741. First business meeting of the Town.

May 23d, 1847. The "Lovell" cotton mill burned.

May 27th, 1871. The mill of Stowell & Ward, at Quinapoxet, burned.

JUNE.

June 4th, 1804. First meeting for business of the Baptist Society.

June 4th, 1891. School-house at Jefferson burned.

June 11th, 1871. The Cyclone.

June 20th, 1884. The mill at Chaffinville burned.

June 24th, 1825. Worcester County Encampment of Knights Templar instituted.

June 24th, 1875. The Worcester County Commandery of Knights Templar celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of its organization by a visit to Holden.

June 28th, 1891. St. Mary's Church at Jefferson dedicated.

JULY.

July 1st, 1891. Sesquicentennial Celebration.

July 4th, 1806. A celebration of Independence Day at which Rev. Joseph Avery delivered an oration.

July 4th, 1842. A Temperance Celebration.

July 4th, 1854. A Fourth of July Celebration "without distinction of party."

July 4th, 1855. Celebration of Independence Day, with an oration by Mr. Homer B. Sprague.

July 4th, 1871. Excursion on the Railroad, though not yet open for traffic.

July 4th, 1875. Fourth of July Excursion to Moosehorn.

July 5th, 1875. Severe thunderstorm. Mrs. Collier killed by lightning at Eagleville.

July 13th, 1674. First Indian Deed.

July 19th, 1742. Mr. Joseph Davis invited to become pastor.

AUGUST.

August 1st, 1885. Six places struck by lightning.

August 3d, 1861. The Holden Rifles mustered out.

August 6th, 1840. Mr. Dinsmore killed by lightning near the Nichols place.

August 8th, 1882. The mill at Unionville burned.

August 15th, 1838. Murder of Philip Edwards by John L. Davis.

August 16th, 1868. St. Mary's Church at the Center dedicated.

August 19th, 1880. Moses Winn killed upon the railroad track.

August 20th, 1761. "Observed as a Day of Prayer with Fasting by Reason of the Drought."

August 24th, 1854. Consecration of Grove Cemetery.

August 28th, 1888. Presentation and Dedication of the Damon Memorial.

August 30th, 1835. Mary and Susan Newell died, aged sixty-six years.

"These individuals were twin sisters, lived most of their days in a family and home by themselves, often expressed a wish that they might die together, which desire was almost literally granted, as one died at one o'clock p. m., and the other at eleven o'clock the same day. They were buried in the same grave and in the same coffin."

SEPTEMBER.

September 1st, 1756. "This day observed as a Day of Prayer by reason of the Sickness."

September 4th, 1871. First regular passenger train on Boston, Barre & Gardner Railroad.

September 7th, 1844. Last meeting of Proprietors.

September 12th, 1873. The Baptist Church re-opened after remodeling.

September 15th, 1829. The First Temperance Society organized.

September 28th, 1757. "Observed as a Day of Prayer by Reason of the War."

OCTOBER.

October 4th, 1876. Holden Library Association organized.

October 12th, 1760. "Observed as a Day of Fasting & Prayer on account of the Aspect of Divine Providence in our public Affairs."

October 12th, 1885. The Women's Christian Temperance Union organized.

October 17th, 1873. Celebration of the Fortieth Anniversary of Dr. Paine's settlement.

October 22d, 1823. Rev. Mr. Bardwell installed.

October 24th, 1833. Ordination of Dr. Paine.

October 25th, 1891. Baptist meeting house reopened after repairs.

October 31st, 1872. Abner P. Greenwood gored to death.

NOVEMBER.

November 5th, 1889. The Town voted to authorize the co-operative care of the poor.

November 10th, 1785. The town records contain the following :

"Voted that the Selectmen warn out of this Town all persons that come to Reside in Said Town."

November 11th, 1836. First meeting in Town House.

November 12th, 1781. From town records :

“ Voted that the Constables of s^d Town are to take one Silver Dollar for 75 of old Currency that is Due to them for Rates.

November 15th, 1755. The Earthquake.

November 20th, 1860. The Farmers' and Mechanics' Club organized.

November 24th, 1724. First division of land.

November 28th, 1876. Dr. Paine died.

November 30th, 1888. Gale Free Library opened for circulation of books.

DECEMBER.

December 8th, 1892. Mill and other buildings burned at Jefferson.

December 16th, 1820. The house of Ethan Davis burned.

December 21st, 1774. Rev. Joseph Avery ordained.

December 22d, 1742. The Church constituted, and Rev. Joseph Davis ordained.

December 24th, 1835. Present Baptist meeting-house dedicated.

December 26th, 1853. Last recorded act of the Proprietors.

December 28th, 1892. Sesquicentennial Celebration of the organization of the Congregational Church. An Historical Address was given by the pastor, Rev. Thomas E. Babb, and many others participated in the interesting exercises.

December 31st, 1807. Baptist Church constituted.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE STORY RETOLD.



THE historical address given by the author of this work at the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the town, with some supplementary matter, is printed here as it gives a brief review of the whole history of Holden, and thus may fitly close this record :

MR. PRESIDENT, FELLOW CITIZENS, FRIENDS ALL :—We are met to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of Holden. That past history should be reviewed is in accordance with the common manner of such celebrations. While on the present occasion it is impossible to rehearse with fullness the annals of the past, while the most that can be done is briefly to suggest the principal events which have occurred, it certainly commends itself as fitting that we should together look back over the multiplying years and generations, and mark what is most noteworthy in the history of our dear old town.

We must look back, indeed, beyond the epoch the anniversary of which we celebrate. Incorporation did not create the town. In the spring of 1741, what was officially designated as "the northerly part of Worcester, commonly called North Worcester," was already, in essential particulars, a town, unified and self-centered, fit for independence, capable of individual development. Incorporation was merely the formal recognition of the existing fact, and the legal certification of an independence which location had constrained and history had developed.

Of aboriginal history there is none to relate. There are few traces of the presence of Indians within our borders, there is no tradition of Indian dwelling, there is no record of bloody deed of Indian warfare.

Before we reach the century and a half of independent history we have three-quarters of a century of dependent history. For more than seventy years this territory was a part of Worcester. When we remember that in 1635, before the Pilgrim had been in Plymouth for half a generation, the people in some towns began to complain that they "were straitened for want of room," we are not surprised that thirty years later the beautiful valley of Quinsigamond, almost exactly half way between the settlements on the coast and those on the Connecticut river, attracted the attention of the General Court. A committee, chosen in 1667, reported the next year that the territory now embracing not Holden only, but also Worcester with its eighty-five thousand inhabitants might "supply about sixty families." The General Court accordingly empowered the same committee to lay out an area equal to eight miles square, and to establish a settlement. In 1674 and 1677 deeds to this territory were secured from the Nipmuck Indians.¹ In 1684 it was voted out of the four hundred and eighty plots, into which the whole should be divided, two hundred should be laid out "at the northerly end of said plantation." From this time our territory has been distinct.

Because of Indian raids and for still other reasons "the plantation of Quonsikamon, alias Worsterr," grew slowly. It was incorporated as a town in 1722, when it contained scarcely fifty houses, and it is doubtful if in all the northerly part there was the rude cabin of a single bold pioneer. This, I say, is doubtful. We lack all certain information as to the original settlement of Holden. Records are silent, tradition is dumb.

Proprietors' records, however, have been kept since 1722. In that year the proprietors of the common and undivided lands in Worcester ordered a survey of the meadow lands in this northern portion. After a survey was made, a certain number

¹ Damon History, pp. 63-66.

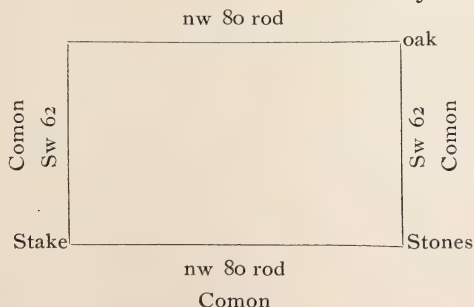
of acres were allotted to each proprietor.¹ From that time forward those who had received their allotments became joint proprietors of all the undivided lands, and the management of the common and undivided lands ran parallel with the administration of town affairs, but distinct from it, till the year 1853.²

The first record looking to settlement here relates to the contract with Jonas Rice for burning lime. Lieutenant Jonas Rice was the first permanent settler in Worcester, and the moderator of the proprietors' meetings which first dealt directly with our territory. Lime having been discovered in the eastern part of this district of Worcester, in March, 1723, he contracted with the proprietors for the exclusive privilege of burning it for the term of seven years. It is not certain, however, that this led to settlement, or even to his availing himself of the contract, as, ten years later, several proprietors to whom a similar contract was offered, burned a "kill" to test the lime, which "it was thought would prove very good." Not far from the same time, possibly a little earlier, Lieutenant Simon Davis settled west of here.

¹The following is the form of record of the allotment of lands to the several proprietors:

"Worcester octobr 29th 1724 Pursuant to a vote of the Proprietors of the Common and undivided land in the north part of Worcester I have laid in said north part thirty acrs of land with one acre allowed for swagg of Chain as a first Division of land for the use of the School Said school Land lyeth on and adjoyning to the westerly side of meetinghouse hill, & bounded Every way by Common land as here discribed in the Platt surv[ey]ed by

"BENJ^A FLAGG Jun"



²The last meeting of the Proprietors was held September 7th, 1844. The last recorded act was the appointment of a chainman, December 26th, 1853.

1724 was an important year for the settlement of "North Worcester." January 29th, the Proprietors received a surveyor's report of the amount of meadow land; March 18th, they voted to proceed "to Divide and Lay out the Common and undivided lands in the North part of Worcester"; April 29th, a committee of five was chosen to lay out "four Publique Roads Six Rods wide"; July 22d, a tax of two shilling was levied on each ten-acre lot, the first tax for local purposes; in October the roads were laid out; and November 2d the first actual allotment of land was made;¹ a second division of land and then a third followed till, in 1736, more than twelve thousand acres had been divided.

November 14th, 1733, a petition was received by the proprietors from James Thompson and sixteen others, praying that the proprietors "would be pleased to get the Land Taxed for Building a meeting-house and settling the Gospel among them." At this time, however, the proprietors did not grant the request, contenting themselves with the declaration at the adjourned meeting, January 16th, 1734, that they will be "ready to Give Due Encouragement toward Settling the Gospel in the North half." At the next proprietors' meeting, however, three years later, it was ordered that a suitable meeting-house be built, that "Provision be made for supporting an orthodox minister to preach the Gospel . . . for three years next to come," and a tax was levied of four pence per acre for the first year, three pence for the second year and two pence for the third year. The meeting-house was to be "fifty foot long and forty foot wide and twenty Two feet between Joyns." It stood on the site since occupied by the Damon estate.²

¹ See page 12.

² The following was the notice of sale of the original meeting-house :—

"NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that their is to be Sold at Public Auction on the Last Wednesday of this Instant at two O'Clock P. M. at the House of Leml Abbot in Holder in Holden that Noted House in Said Town Known by the Name of the Old Publick Meeting House; their is a variety of Excelent Boards no doubt, and a Large assortment of fine Timber, which the purchaser may make Large

It now seemed to the people here that they should be established as a distinct municipality. Their interests were entirely separate from those of Worcester. In one year, at least, Worcester had already released its north half part from all taxation, if the residents would care for their own roads. One great duty of towns was to provide for public worship, and one great privilege of citizens was to attend public worship. Distance made it impossible for those living in the north half to worship in Worcester. Indeed, of those who later constituted the church, the majority held membership in Rutland. As we have seen, the proprietary of Holden was entirely distinct from that of Worcester. The two were in fact, and should be in form, separate and independent.

Accordingly, March 3d, 1740, Worcester willingly assented to the proposed division,¹ and in May, Mr. John Bigelow was chosen to carry to the General Court, at its May session, the petition of twenty-five of his fellow citizens, that they might be set off as a distinct and separate township. Unsuccessful at this session, the petition met with favor at the next. The bill for the incorporation of Holden² passed the House of

improvements upon besides Some Glass and Nails all which will be sold together, or in sepperate Lots as will best accommodate the purchaser or purchasers. the Conditions of sale will be made Known at the time and place above mentioned.

“ March ye 16th 1791

JAMES DAVIS,
EBEN ESTABROOK, } *Committee.*
PAUL GOODALE,

“ N. B. Notice is hereby given to all persons that have any Demands on said House as private property; they are Desired to Remove the same before said Day as no allowance will be made to any Person by the Town that Shall Neglect the same.”

¹ “Voted that ye Northrly part of the Town Comonly Called North Worcester agreeable to ye Pertition Line formerly Run be Set of a Distinct & Seperate Township if it be ye pleasure of ye grate & General Court in Consideration of Their grate Distance from ye place of public worship.” Worcester Town Records.

² “AN ACT FOR ERECTING THE NORTHERLY PART OF THE TOWN OF WORCESTER, INTO A DISTINCT AND SEPARATE TOWNSHIP, BY THE NAME OF HOLDEN.

“ WHEREAS the inhabitants of the northerly part of the town of Worcester, commonly called North Worcester, by reason of the great difficulties

Representatives January 2d, 1740 old style, 1741 new style, and was signed by the Governor January 9th. By another act passed in March, Mr. Bigelow was authorized to assemble the qualified voters on the first Monday in May, which was done. Making no allowance for change of calendar, on the 9th of last January, Holden had been one hundred and fifty years incorporated; on the 4th of last May it had been one hundred and fifty years an organized municipality.

And how many and who were these who heroically assumed the responsibilities of a new town, and served religion and education? It seems almost insidious to choose any names from the lists of our first families, yet time forbids the mention of many. Lieutenant Simon Davis was Moderator of the first and of many succeeding town meetings, selectman and tithing man; Cyprian Stevens was the first town clerk; one of the first selectmen was Captain John Bigelow who had been the bearer to the General Court of the petition for incorporation. With these were others as worthy. The Rev. Mr. Davis in his sermon preached here fifty years after his ordina-

they labour under, have addressed this court to be set off a separate and distinct township, whereto the inhabitants of sd town have manifested their consent,—

“BE IT ENACTED by His Excellency the Governor, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

“That the northerly part of the town of Worcester, within the following bounds; vizt., bounding, southeasterly, on the lines dividing the north and south proprietries in said town, and is known by the name of the dividing line; westerly, partly on the town of Leicester, and partly on the town of Rutland; north-westerly on said town of Rutland, and easterly on the town of Shrewsbury, be and hereby is set off from the town of Worcester, and erected into a separate and distinct township, by the name of Holden.

“And the inhabitants thereof be and hereby are vested with all the powers, privileges and immunities which the inhabitants of other towns within this province do or by law ought to enjoy.

“Provided nevertheless,

“That the said new town shall pay their proportionable part of all such province and county taxes as are already assessed upon the town of Worcester in like manner as if this act had never been made.”

Copied from Volume II. of the Provincial Statutes, published by authority of the State, omitting, however, the insertions of the Editors.

tion, says that the people numbered in 1741, all told, twenty families. The names of perhaps forty men have, however, been preserved as active in town, as poll tax payers, or as church members, before the close of the year 1743.¹ And what had they for a "setting out" wherewith to begin municipal housekeeping? Their rude homes were new, for few houses in town were ten years old; consequently within and without they lacked much of convenience and comfort which they later gathered about them.² So far as the records show, only four

¹The following were the signers of the petition dated May 13th, 1740, and presented to the General Court by John Bigelow: Simon Davis, James Smith, Timothy Brown, Abraham Newton, Samuel Davis, James Cowdin, Jonathan Lovell, Thomas Broad, John McConkey, Cyprian Stevens, Samuel Clark, James Caldwell, James Gray, William Clark, Joseph Woolley, Jotham Bigelow, John Child, William Cowdin, David Cowdin, Benjamin Bigelow, Thomas McMullin, Samuel Hubbard, David Brown, Joseph Hubbard, Samuel Heywood.

The following early members of the church are not included in the above list: John Fletcher, William Nichols, Jabez Harrington, Samuel Pierce, Amos Heywood, Samuel Bennett, Eleazar Davis.

²The ordinary supply of tools and household conveniences may be judged from the following inventory of the estate of Cyprian Stevens, a prominent citizen of the town—four times Selectman in the first six years of its history.

"A True Inventory of all and Singular the Goods Chattels and Credets of Cyprian Stevens Late of Holden in the County of Worcester Gent. Prized at said Holden the 15th Day of May Ano Dom. 1754 by James Moore Jabez Beamon and Samuel Peirce &c as followeth,

	£	s.	d.
Imprimis his Apparel	04	02	00
Item his Books	00	08	00
Item his half-pike and Sword	00	06	00
To one Yoke of Oxen	08	00	00
To four Cows	09	09	00
To Three Heifers	05	07	00
To Two Paier of Steres	04	19	00
To one Mare and Colt	09	00	00
To Riding Furniture	00	16	00
To Swine	03	00	00
To one Carte and Wheels	02	05	00
To one Seed-plow	00	09	00
To one Chain and Horse Traeeses	00	13	00
To one Shovel and two Forkes	00	06	00
To Two Axes and two Sawes	01	02	00
To Square and other Carpenter Toolcs	00	09	00

roads had been laid out. The town property consisted of the new meeting-house, destitute of pulpit, pew and even floor, which indeed was still in the hands of the proprietors, and was not surrendered till some time after.¹ It was thus, rich only

To three Sythes and three hoanes	00	07	00
To Beetel-ring, wedges and old Irion	00	10	00
To Grane	03	06	00
To Hand-Irions fireslice Tongs and Troimels	01	04	00
To Iron pott kittels Skillite and frying-pan	00	12	00
To Warming-pan candel-stick Box-Iron and Skimer	00	05	00
To Puter wessels and Wooden-Ware	01	16	00
To two Beds and Bedsteds and their furniture	04	00	00
To two Beds more and their furniture	04	14	00
To Linen and Flax	01	10	00
To Chestes and Tables	00	12	00
To one Loom one Slay and two Spining wheels	01	07	00
To Chaiers dri cask Sider bariels and Indore lumber	01	05	00
To one Dri Hide	00	06	00
To one Large Ioron Kettel	00	08	00
To Hooseing and Land and Pue in the meeting House	460	00	00
	£	s.	d.
Sum Total	552	13	00

¹ "at a meeting of the Proprietors of Holden by an adjournment at the Light house Tavern, Boston, augt 14: 1744

"at said meeting the following report was made & accepted

In observance to a vote of the Proprietors of Holden at their meeting at the Light house Tavern in King street Boston upon tuesday the 17th day of April last, we accordingly attended upon the affair Submitted to us by said Proprietors & went to Holden and there mett together the second tuesday of June Instant and took a view of the meeting house built in said Town by the said Proprietors, and heard what the Inhabitants had to say respecting the finishing the same and making & Disposing of pews in said house—and are of opinion that the said Proprietors be at the Charge of finishing said House so far as may be Necessary for the accommodation of the Present Inhabitants and that Sundry pewes are alredy Built and more are required to be built in said meeting House for the accommodation of those that desire Pew's Evento the Number of twenty-Two takeing in the Two hind seats for the doing that Number, Reserving to som of the Non resident Proprietors Two three, or not more than four of said Pews, & one for the Ministry, and the remainder to the Present Inhabitants. & are further of opinion that the Proprietors should pay to the Inhabitants the Charge they have been at in building the pulpitt, & the Body of Seats be low and that Each person that shall have a Pew, be at the Charge of Building it, & Cielling it up to the Girt, Except the Charg of the Pew to the Ministry, and we are fur-

in the empty but strong hands, and full and strong hearts of its citizens, that Holden began as Holden, a century and a half ago.

Before we turn away from the obscure records of the earliest years, interesting and important so far as they have been preserved, it remains to notice and name two of the worthies of that day. For eighteen years, from 1725 to 1743, Colonel Adam Winthrop was Moderator of all the meetings of the proprietors. Holden, as well as Worcester, profited much in those days by his enterprise and sagacity. As a mark of their grateful respect, he was allowed in the first, the second, and the third divisions of land, his first choice of land. He well deserves what Dr. Damon said of him fifty years ago, "He emphatically may be called a father of the town." Mention must also be made of him for whom the town was named, the Hon. Samuel Holden, who was a prince among London merchants, a director of the Bank of England, and a member of Parliament, an earnest Christian man and a leader in Christian beneficence,¹ who was the architect of his own fortune, and

ther of opinion that when that said meeting house is finished, and the pews disposed of that the Proprietors then Resign up the said Meeting house to the Inhabitants of said Town they submitting themselves to the votes of the Proprietors and Further that if the Proprietors accept of what is a bove proposed that then we or som other comtee, they shall appoint proceed to the disposal of said Pews all which is humbly submitted," Proprietors' Records.

¹ "BUT give me leave to *rejoice* in the distinguishing Honours of Providence and Grace to the Deceased Mr. HOLDEN, that he seem'd to be *one* of the Servants with *five Talents*; in as much as it pleased GOD in his early *Youth* to *fix* him (as he once wrote to me) in those *Principles* and *Inclinations* which *ru'd* in him thro' his Life; and then being rais'd to great *Riches*, and endued with uncommon *Powers of Mind*, and his *Integrity* with his Capacity being manifest to all about him, together with his *Diligence in Business* which renders one fit to *Stand before Princes*; the eyes of *City* and *Court* also were in time set upon him, his *Honesty and Prudence* commanding their *Esteem*; and so he came to shine not only at the *Head of the DISSENTERS*, that *great and good Body* both in the *British Church and State*; but also at the *Head of the Bank of England*, and on *these Accounts* (as I have heard) was even courted and constrained by the MINISTRY into a Seat in *Parliament*! And now the *Wonder of Grace* to him and in him was, that amidst so many and great *Avocation* and Incumbrances from the World, the *Snares* and

who gave as grandly as he accumulated; whose benefactions, together with those of his family, to college and church in the New World amounted to no less than £10,000. May Holden ever be worthy of the honored name which she bears.

Town officers were elected on the 4th of May, 1741, and two weeks later was held the first meeting for the transaction of town business. The records deserve to be read in full.

“Att a Genaral meeting of y^e Inhabitance of y^e Town of Holden on y^e nine tenth Day of may Anna Domani 1741 Leagaly Assembled.

Mr Simon Davis was Chose a moderator for this meeting

“(1) voted to have y^e Gospel preached in Sd Town

“(2) voted to have y^e Gospel Preached for Six Sabaths forward after the next Sabbath.

“(3) voted that Samuel Peirce Willam Nickels and Thomas McMollen be a Committe to provide a minister and a place for his Entertainment

“(4) voted to haue a wrighting and reading Schoole kept in Sd Town voted to have it Three months to begin att the first of September next the parsons hereafter named ware Chosen a Committe to provide a School master viz Cyprian Stevens and Samvel Thomson

“(5) voted to build a Surficant pound in Sd Town voted that all parsons in Sd Town come to the age of Sixteen years shall attend the work of erecting Sd pound on the Twenty fifth Day of this Instant may or pay ten Shilings per man

“(6) voted that fifty pounds Shall be Raised to Defray Charg of preaching and Schooling

“This meeting is solved ”

Thus simply and grandly did the fathers lift the burdens which incorporation laid upon them. As it is well expressed

Temptations of so many of its *Glories*; his *Eyes* were not *dazled* with its glittering shows, nor his *Heart* taken off, but the rather the more settled on the infinitely greater and *eternal Blessedness of Heaven*; the care of his *own Soul*, the temporal and spiritual Good of *Mankind* as far as his Influence could reach; that hereby he might please, honour and glorify GOD in his Generation, maintain a Life of *communion* with Him and *Devotedness* to Him, and make to himself *Friends of the Mammon of Unrighteousness*, that at *Death* he might be received into *Mansions of Light*, and *everlasting Habitations*.” Sermon of Dr. Benjamin Colman before the General Court, p. 3.

in the hymn, which, written for the celebration fifty years ago, we have just made a part of ours to-day,

“ First in their noble thoughts and plans,
The love and worship, Lord, of Thee;
Then, the strong training of their youth
The love of Man and Liberty.”

As soon as possible a church was organized, with fourteen constituent members, all of whom were men, and the same day, December 22d, 1742, Rev. Joseph Davis, a son of Lieutenant Simon Davis, was ordained as the first pastor of the young church and town. The meeting-house was then completed;¹ schools were kept year after year in different parts of the town, wherever room could be found for them, and road making was carried forward as rapidly as possible.

The one hundred and fifty years of our history as a town very naturally fall into six periods, each of twenty-five years. Within the borders of the town, one of the most memorable events of the first quarter-century was the earthquake of 1755, the effects of which were quite widely felt, but were nowhere more marked than in Holden, chiefly in that district later set off to form the town of West Boylston. At the time Rev. Mr. Mellen, pastor in Lancaster, says that several acres of land were “quite surrounded by a visible fracture in the earth, of a circular form, of various width and depth,” and vividly describes the effects especially upon the trees.² It is said that

¹ May 24th, 1743, the town “voted that there be a desent pue built att ye cost and charge of ye Town at ye west end of ye meeting house next to ye pulpet Stares and to be for ministrall use.”

² “At the north east corner of the town of *Holden*, in a low obscure place, there are several acres of land quite surrounded by a visible FRACTURE in the earth, of a circular form; and of various width and depth.

“A small rocky river is upon the north, and other-ways chiefly covered by a steep hill, set with thick wood.

“The breach upon the hilly sides is upon the declivity of the hill, and is a *perpendicular sinking* of the ground, in some places more than the height of a inan, but without any *present* opening.

“The trees on each side of the breach by this means, being thrown into various directions, and sometimes crossing one another, over head at right angles, sometimes thrown out by the roots.

“Upon the less uneven land is *now* a *rupture* of different dimensions, not

the marks of this convulsion may still be traced. Twice during this period the little town was desolated by sickness, in 1749 twenty-two dying, and then in 1756 a pestilence breaking out here, which caused the death of forty-five persons, almost one-tenth of the population, and then spread to other towns with consequences as lamentable.

As regards matters beyond our own borders, the citizens of Holden shared in the courageous and patient endeavors of the New Englanders against Louisburg and in the French and Indian war. Edward Everett says that the people of Massachusetts, between 1755 and 1763, "performed an amount of military service, probably never exacted of any other people, living under a government professing to be free." Careful estimates show that the thirty thousand population of this county sent nine thousand men into the war; our mother town, from fourteen hundred inhabitants sent five hundred. Though in consequence of the incompleteness of the muster rolls, the names of only twenty of those who went from a little community of less

very deep or yawning, but sometimes dividing it self into *two*, and frequently emitting cracks to some distance from its main body; the ground being thereby very much broken into pieces, and some large masses intirely dis-joined from the rest.

"Upon the River side it is easy to see where the *rupture* was, but at present there is no opening, only a sand that seems to have been thrown out, and a great dislocation of the stones of vast bigness in the channel. The old channel is indeed in great measure block'd up, and seems to be *rais'd* something answerable to the *sinking* of the land at the hill, and causes a considerable *fall* of the water where it is said there us'd to be little or none: and this is not improbable from circumstances which seem to demonstrate that this whole body of earth when torn from the hill, was push'd several feet towards the River.

"The *stump* of a tree that happened to stand directly over the chasm, on the east, is divided into two equal parts, one standing upon the outside of the chasm, the other upon the inside, but not opposite to each other, the half within the chasm being carried five feet forward towards the River.

"A large *log* also that crosses the breach upon the same side, is dislodged from its ancient bed at the end lying without the chasm, but retains its former situation within. The same thing is seen in the roots of a tree that is turned up in the chasm upon the opposite side to the west.

"Some trees that stood upon the margin of the river tumbled into it, and notwithstanding the large quantity of earth hanging to their roots, the

than five hundred, have been preserved, yet we do not fear that Holden fell behind her sister towns in faithfulness and valor. We know of at least one, Sergeant Ephraim Bennett, who died in actual service on the Crown Point expedition in 1755.

In the second quarter-century of our history, the Revolution came, and men found profit even in the sacrifices and the losses, which the colonies had borne. These hardships had trained heroes, who could wrest liberty even from England herself. In 1768 Mr. Davis records the observance by the church of "a day of Fasting and Prayer on account of the Aspects of divine Providence in our public affairs." But prayer could not avert the storm. Peace could come only by the sword, liberty by Revolution.

The temper of our citizens in this crisis is displayed in the following resolutions, two out of fourteen which were drawn up and passed in response to a pamphlet from Boston containing resolutions and an appeal.

"(1) Resolved that Liberty both Religious & Civil is a most Precious and Enestimable Gift of the Great & Glorious Creator of

place from which it was taken is not left void, but the earth behind has come forward and clos'd up the breach. The turf also at the channel, is in some places doubled over and crowded together.

"I very lately saw this remarkable place, with a view at publishing the account of it here. It has been seen by many people, and some of them persons of some distinction.

"It seems probable that the eruption and swelling was greater at the River than in any other part; which may possibly account in some measure for the descent of the other land that way, which in the general lay a little higher: and this might help to continue the channel in its rais'd situation.

"I observ'd upon a little hillock not far from the center of the circumference, a small quantity of fine sand spread upon the leaves, which seem'd to be spewed out of the earth, and a little spring to appearance of a strong mineral tincture, ouzing thro' it, and falling down its sides.

"Had only such a rupture as this happened in a place inhabited and set with houses, the terrible effects of it are not hard to conceive. And it ought to be improv'd as an admonition to thankfulness, and readiness for such a like event."

A Sermon Delivered *June 16, 1756.* At the Second Parish in *Lancaster.* By JOHN MELLEN, A. M., Pastor of the Church of Christ there, *Boston:* 1756, pp. 8-11.

all things granted to all Rational Creatures : neither can any Person or Persons innocently give or Sell it away from himself any more than he can take it from another

“(2^{dly}) If any have been so unhappy as to Surrender their Liberty such Act of theirs Cannot induce any Moral Obligation of Servitude on them Personally Especially ; if they were Enslaved by irresistible Power : surely then it Cannot reasonably bind their Successors in every future Generation”

Our fathers, however, were not ready to make universal application of the principles which they so forcibly stated. The following paper, executed a year and a half before the resolutions which I have just read, but not recorded until four years after their date, seems not without interest and pertinency.

“ Know all Men by these presents that I, Joseph Harrington of Weston, in the County of Middlesex in the province of Massachusetts Bay in New England Gent^l for & in Consideration of Fifty Pounds Lawfull Money of the Province aforesaid, to me in hand paid by Nathan Harrington of Holden in y^e County of Worcester, Yeoman, the Receipt whereof I do Acknowledge & myself therewith fully & intirely Satisfied, have Bargained, Sold Set over & delivered & do by these Presents according to Law Bargain Sell Set over & deliver unto the Said Nathan Harrington a Negro Man named Boston, about Twenty Five years of Age, to have & to Hold to the Proper use and behoof of him the Said Nathan Harrington,”

and so on to the end of legal verbage. There is every reason to suppose that poor Boston was serving in Holden¹ while the citizens were declaring and declaiming in favor of liberty, and they may every one of them have been utterly unconscious of the inconsistency. But liberty fought out brought yet wider liberty in its train, till at last it has been proclaimed to all the inhabitants of the land.

What the men of Holden voted for, they were ready to fight for. The researches of Dr. Damon gathered the names

¹ In 1765 there were two negroes in town. In 1777 the tax levied on the Negro named Pole was abated; the latter was a member of the church in 1743.

of thirty-five who served in the Continental Army, and of forty more who went out as militia men. One in every ten of the total population bore arms in the cause of freedom. Thomas Heard was killed in warfare near Saratoga, Moses Wheeler and Jeremiah Fuller died amid the agony of Valley Forge. The only commissioned officer from Holden in the Continental Army, Captain George Webb, received the high but deserved honor of a special letter of thanks from General Lafayette.

Scarcely less interesting is the story of the struggles of those who remained at home to meet the requisitions so often made upon them. Bounties were voted to volunteers, large quantities of beef were called for and sent to feed the army, clothing and blankets were gathered up from the homes of the people, doubtless leaving many a household destitute of needed comforts, for freedom's sake.

It may also be noted that in the long days of the struggle Holden involuntarily became a refuge for the Tories, who fled in needless fear from Worcester and fortified themselves for a time on Stone House Hill, and that amid the distresses of debt and disaster which followed the war, scarcely less dreadful than war itself, some of the citizens of Holden sympathized with the movement known as Shays' Rebellion, and a few actually joined the Regulators.

In January, 1773, after one month more than thirty years of pastoral service, Rev. Joseph Davis, at his own request, was dismissed from his office, although he continued to reside here, serving in the work of the ministry as occasion offered until his death in 1799, at the age of seventy-nine years. After an interval of about two years, Rev. Joseph Avery was ordained as pastor, to hold the office nearly fifty years.

The closing event of the first half-century of our history was the building of a new meeting-house, on the lot given to the Town for public uses by John Hancock in 1789. When this period closed, Holden had a population of about eleven hundred. The valuation was thirty-five thousand pounds, and the appropriations were one hundred and thirty pounds for highways, seventy pounds for schools and sixty pounds for

necessary charges, aside from the usual salary of Mr. Avery, sixty-six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence, which would make the rate of taxation \$7.45 on the \$1,000. At this time, however, highway taxes were worked out at the rate of four shillings per day for a man, and two shillings for a yoke of oxen with plough or cart. It may be noted in passing that all taxes were reckoned in pounds, shillings and pence till 1797, and highway taxes were not reckoned in dollars and cents till 1806.

The second quarter-century closed with the building of a new meeting-house, the third period began with school-house building. The town set apart four hundred pounds, and soon almost all the districts or "squadrons," as they were then called, were supplied with buildings commodious and convenient for the times.

During this period the old church had remarkable quickening and growth. The closing years of the eighteenth century and the opening years of the nineteenth were an era of widespread irreligion and immorality. For fifty years the church had scarcely received on an average one male member a year. From 1801 to 1808 not one was received. The first religious revival which had ever touched the town brought nearly ninety members into the church in 1809. The Baptist Church was organized in 1807, and grew steadily amid this revival spirit. There were, however, serious ecclesiastical difficulties during this period. Not long before 1800, the introduction of instruments of music into the choir roused an antagonism, which it required all Mr. Avery's skill to quiet. Still more important were the questionings and controversies, contemporaneous with the rise of the Unitarian denomination. The deepening religious spirit of many on the one hand, the increasingly "liberal" temper of many on the other hand were elements hard to hold in combination. Only such patience, tact and wisdom as Mr. Avery had and used, could have prevented the old church from being rent in twain, as were so many of the old churches of the Commonwealth. It would be very interesting to study the articles of faith which he drew up for the

church in 1811, but unfortunately they had already been lost half a century ago.

This third period closes with the distressful years before and during the war of 1812. From the policy of the nation at that time, Holden suffered like all of New England. Against it Holden used to the utmost its voice and vote. In July, 1812, the town adopted a petition to Congress against the declaration of war, drawn by a committee of which Rev. Mr. Avery was chairman (as he usually was when important papers were to be drawn), and in the elections which followed, for Representative in Congress, President and Governor respectively, only eleven Democratic votes were cast, as against one hundred and ninety-five Federalist votes for Governor. How many of our citizens actually served as soldiers, we do not know, but in 1815 the town voted "to give the three men that went on government service eight dollars per month to each of them."

This closes perhaps the most troublous period in our annals. During most of this period there was no growth or development of the town. In 1810, the population (one thousand seventy-two) was actually less than twenty years before. In 1809, however, was begun at Unionville, by Eleazer Rider & Sons, the manufacturing of cotton yarn, almost the first business of the kind in all Worcester County, the dawn of our bright industrial day.

Passing now from the half of our history, in which the historian is dependent on brief records and meagre tradition, to the half which lies within the knowledge and memory of not a few who hear me, we may well pause for a moment to consider the work and worth of those who were, in a pre-eminent sense, the makers of this town, and in their own sphere and proportion, the makers of the Commonwealth and of the nation. A vast amount of labor was performed in the first half of our history. To all who live here now, may be said, "Other men labored, and ye have entered into their labors." The pioneers of Massachusetts had not, like the pioneers of the New West, the momentum of a great nation and of an over-

flowing continent, and the accumulation of centuries to aid them. With little equipment beyond his axe, his plough and his strong hands, the settler struggled with the wilderness; cleared away the forest; erected his simple cottage which affection, intelligence and piety made a home, better than which, in all essentials, the world has never seen; fought the wolf, the crow and the rattlesnake; forced the coy earth to yield the corn and the flax, from which the housewife, a help for him, meet to share alike his labors and his honors, wrought food and clothing; built roads; bound every stream to a saw, and made it, like Samson, to grind in a mill; receiving with meekness the word of God's minister, yet blazed his own path through the mysteries alike of theology and of statecraft; and, under the influence of the New England home, the New England school-house, and the New England church, trained up a generation, likewise industrious, liberty-loving and God-fearing. Was not this a task for heroes, and were they not heroes, who wrought it so well in Holden? In the words of the honored man, who half a century ago in this very place so impressively told their story, "Honest, intelligent, industrious and religious ancestors are among the richest of Heaven's blessings to any people. Citizens of Holden, God has bestowed upon you that inestimable blessing. The wise man hath well observed, 'The glory of children are their fathers.'"

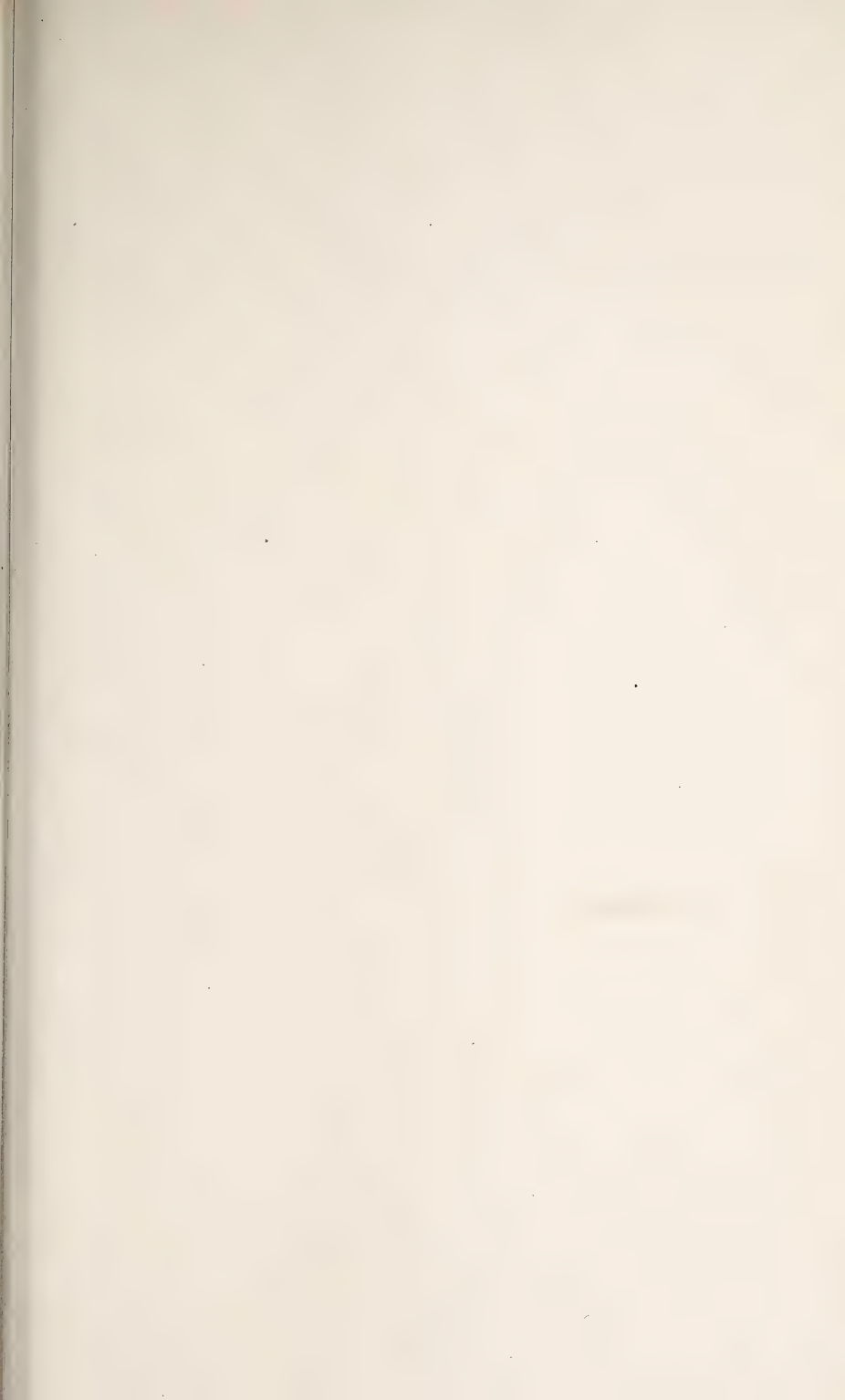
The twenty-five year period which rounded out our municipal century was one of the least eventful in our annals. During these quiet years the town steadily prospered, increasing in population more than in any other similar period since the

"Holden May 24, 1742. Voted to make a Rate for killing of black burds Jay burds woodpeckers and Rattel Snaikes: voted that aney that kill aney of these Varmon Shall have Sixpence pr head old Tener."

"Holden, May 14, 1792. Voted for the Town to Give a Bounty of two shillings for Every Crow aney of the Inhabitants of the Town shall Kill for one Year from this Day.

"Voted that every person shall Carry the head of the Crow he Kills to the selectmen and the Selectmen pay the above Bounty therefor."

Town Records. Similar votes appear in 1808 and 1814.





CENTER. FROM THE AVERY RESIDENCE.

first, and making a greater proportional gain in manufacturing than during any other period.

In 1822 Rev. Joseph Avery, having almost finished a half century of service, was constrained rather than consented to cease the active duties of the pastorate, which he had so long and so well discharged, though he bore the title and received part of the salary of pastor till he died, two years later. Like his predecessor, he dwelt among this people to the end of his days, and each hill which overlooks the Center is consecrated by the dwelling there of a good minister of Jesus Christ.

October 22d, 1823, Rev. Horatio Bardwell became pastor of the Congregational Church. Ten years later, almost to a day, October 24th, 1833, pressing his second resignation against the wish of his people, in order to engage in work for foreign missions, which he loved so well, he was dismissed from his pastorate, and the same day Rev. William P. Paine was ordained and installed as his successor. Several large revivals marked this period, the most marked being in 1830, when more than two hundred united with the two churches, of which some of you are witnesses. In 1820 stoves were introduced in the old meeting-house. Then, in 1828, it was moved back to its present site and thoroughly repaired, a belfry was added and a bell purchased. With the dismissal of Mr. Bardwell and the coming of Dr. Paine, the relation which from the beginning had subsisted between the town and the Congregational Church was severed, and ecclesiastical doings found no more places in the town records.

During this period the Baptist Church built two meeting-houses. The first was built in 1819 on the site just north of the Damon Memorial, and being found too small was succeeded by the present building in 1838. November 14th, 1836, was held the first town meeting in the new Town Hall, erected at a cost of \$4,000.

The schools were greatly helped during this period by the regular visits of a committee of supervision, of which Mr. Bardwell, whose visits are still remembered pleasantly by those who were children then, was chairman as long as he remained

in town, and then the office passed to Dr. Paine, who discharged its duties for more than thirty years with scarcely a break. On the other hand, about the same time the districts were authorized to manage all their own affairs, and perhaps this complete isolation worked a fully counter-balancing damage.

During the latter part of this quarter-century the question of temperance became a burning issue. Dr. Paine tells us that in 1833 it entered seriously into the choice of a minister, and that public opinion was greatly divided. The preponderance of sentiment was, however, on the side of temperance. In 1835 it was voted, one hundred and fifteen to forty-five, not to license the sale of liquors in town. In 1838, on a quiet summer morning, Philip Edwards, while passing peaceably to his work, was attacked with an axe and butchered by a neighbor who had been crazed by the use of intoxicating liquors. The friends of temperance, led by Dr. Paine, whose printed sermon¹ remains as a witness, well used this tremendous argument for temperance. In 1839 the petitioners against the repeal of the

¹ "A Sermon Occasioned by the Murder of Philip Edwards. By William P. Paine. Worcester, 1838"

The text of this discourse was Job xxiv, 14: "The murderer, rising with the light, killeth the poor and needy." The heads of the discourse were:

"*First.* An uncommon and important event generally makes a much deeper impression, in the place where it occurs, than anywhere else.

"*Secondly.* We are taught, by this awful event, the importance of always being prepared for eternity.

"*Thirdly.* Our sympathy, prayers and assistance, are due to those, whose interest[s] have been especially affected by this melancholy catastrophe.

"*Fourthly.* It is obvious that the shocking event under consideration was caused by *the use of intoxicating liquor.*

"*Fifthly,* that the use of alcoholic liquors, as articles of drink, is dangerous.

"*Sixthly.* Intoxicating liquor ought not to be used as a drink.

"*Seventhly.* The traffic in intoxicating liquors ought to cease."

The discourse concludes in these words:

"I appeal to you all for the sake of purity and peace and safety—for the sake of injured innocence—for the sake of broken-hearted and affrighted wives, of sorrowing children and suffering families—for the sake of everything dear here and hereafter, to do, without delay, all that is practicable to protect yourselves, and your families, and this whole community, from that subtle demon—that demon of perdition—the *drink* of destruction."

stringent act of 1838 were one hundred and seventy-four and only eighty-six favored the repeal, while the women, three hundred and fifty-five in number, unanimously petitioned for its retention. The vote on the late prohibitory amendment was one hundred and sixty-one to seventy-nine.

With the year 1841 came the centennial of the town. It was becomingly celebrated May 4th, under the direction of a committee chosen at a citizens' meeting, and the well-remembered exercises have of late been often in the minds and mouths of many of you. A son of the town, later widely known as the Rev. Samuel C. Damon, D. D., of Honolulu, gave the Historical Address, afterwards published with additional matter, and after a dinner served in the Town Hall to three hundred and twenty persons, there was appropriate and interesting speaking.

This mile-stone past, we enter another quiet period in the life of Holden. There was no increase in population, though there was a decided gain in property. The old Congregational Church was all the time led by Dr. Paine. The Baptist Church maintained itself, but attempts to establish Methodist, Adventist and Universalist Churches all were unsuccessful.

No public buildings, except school-houses, were built or repaired. In 1854 land was secured for a new burial ground, and August 24th, occurred the formal dedication of the Grove Cemetery, the site of which is by nature fine and rarely suited to its use, and which, by the filial piety of two daughters of Holden, has been beautified with an entrance which eminent authority pronounces unsurpassed in any similar town.

However quiet in home affairs, the period ending in 1866 must yet be a period of glory on account of our share in the Civil War. I need not rehearse the story at large,—how the North was suddenly plunged unprepared into the desperate struggle, and fought for four long years, till at last treasure and blood, poured out without stint, cemented again the Union.

Alike in timeliness and in relative amount of service, Holden stood among the first of all the towns of the Commonwealth. At the first summons, in the very week which was

ushered in by the cannonade of Fort Sumter, the Holden Rifles enlisted as a company, and Saturday, April 20th, left Worcester for the seat of war, while the women of Holden with hearts distracted by the pain of parting and patriotic pride, gathered Sunday in the Town Hall to work for them. Thirty-one names stand on the records of the town of those who instantly sprang to the defence of the assaulted flag. Long as that flag waves shall the story of the promptness of the Holden Rifles be told to their own honor and the honor of Holden. After three months' service the Rifles returned with ranks unbroken by casualty to receive the enthusiastic public welcome of the town. Many of them quickly re-enlisted for three years, or the war, and many other noble young men with them. For four years, call for soldiers fast followed call, but Holden more than met all demands, and when the war closed this little town of less than two thousand inhabitants had furnished two hundred and four soldiers, four more than her full quota. As in the Revolution, the number of soldiers was more than one in ten of the total population. Eleven had been commissioned officers. Meantime those who remained at home had as nobly carried the financial burdens necessarily imposed. The amount expended by the town in bounties and aid, besides what was repaid by the state, was no less than \$8,000.

Upon the marble tablets set in the Town Hall by the Holden Soldiers' Monument Association as a permanent memorial of loyalty, valor and patience unto death, are recorded the names of thirty of our soldiers who were martyrs as well as heroes. They should be read in our hearing to-day: Uriah Bassett, killed; George T. Bigelow, killed; H. Erskine Black, died; Levi Chamberlain, killed; Edward Clark, died; Albert Creed, died of wounds; Elisha G. Davenport, killed; Henry M. Fales, killed; John Fearing, died of wounds; Charles Gibbs, died; James W. Goodnow, died in prison; James W. Haley, died; John Handley, killed; Henry M. Holt, died; John R. Houghton, died; Amasa A. Howe, died in prison; Calvin Hubbard, died in prison; George T. Johnson,

died ; Ira J. Kelton, died of wounds ; Lyman E. Keyes, killed ; Frank Lumazette, died of wounds ; Harlan P. Moore, died ; George W. Newell, died of wounds ; William C. Perry, died ; Michael Riley, killed ; Winslow B. Rogers, died ; John B. Savage, died in prison ; George Thurston, died of wounds ; Horace L. Truesdell, died of wounds ; Alfred S. Tucker, died in in prison. Their fellow-soldiers in the Grand Army of the Republic, who honor this occasion with their presence, yearly decorate the graves of those who sleep among their kindred. Be it ours, whenever the mother town counts her jewels, to reckon as the most priceless of all, the steadfast daring of her heroic sons. Let me but add a partial roll of the battles in which some of our heroes fell : Chantilly, Antietam, Cold Harbor, Newbern, Drury's Bluff, Spottsylvania, Welden Railroad, the Wilderness ! What memories these names evoke ! Need we go further for proof of Holden's worthy share in the suppression of the great Rebellion ? Needs Holden praise indeed, what praise is possible, beyond this, that her citizens and soldiers, to the music of the Union, kept step with Massachusetts ?

The sixth and last period needs no detailed record. It is too familiar to all. In 1871 the Boston, Barre & Gardner Railroad was opened for travel, its building involving the town in heavy indebtedness and yet a necessity to our prosperity, The Massachusetts Central Railroad, after a prolonged struggle with great financial difficulties, has at last been opened as a through line. In 1876 the Town Hall was repaired, enlarged, and made a "Memorial" of our fallen soldiers. The Baptist church was refitted in 1874, and immediately afterward the Congregational church was remodelled. A little later, the honored Dr. Paine, after more than forty-one years of active labors, became "pastor *emeritus*," and in 1876 he fell asleep, the last of the four pastors who had filled the long period of one hundred and thirty-five years with service of that church and the whole community. The Roman Catholic parish, established early in this period, has already outgrown its first

church, and just now enters the fine edifice consecrated last Sunday.

The cyclone, which mowed a swath of destruction through the town, passing near the Center, was fortunately attended with no loss of life and comparatively little damage to person or property, but will always be memorable for its power, and for its terrible possibilities.

In respect to schools there has been great progress in the last quarter-century. In 1866 \$2,100 was appropriated, and in 1891 \$6,700, Holden standing first of all the municipalities of Worcester County in the percentage of its taxable property devoted to schools, and seventh in the whole Commonwealth. The town that marches in the foremost rank in Massachusetts, marches in the foremost rank in the land. Early in this period, to great advantage, the whole management of the schools was vested in the Town School Committee. The last advance step in administration is the appointment of a superintendent. A High School was established in 1880, from which fully forty have already been graduated. School-houses have been steadily improved, that built in Jefferson in 1885 being one in which any country town might justly take pride, but the one ordered to take its place almost before its ashes were cold, being finer yet. The Public Library, founded in 1876 by the Library Association, has been made over to the town, increased by gifts and appropriations to more than three thousand six hundred volumes, which constitute a collection of unusual merit, and, with the reading room, is open free to all citizens more hours weekly than the library of any similar town. Still more, the Library, as well as the High School, has been provided in the "Damon Memorial" with a home which is the pride of our town, and the admiration of all beholders, the gift of our honored friends, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Gale, whose absence to-day we regret.

Looking back now, half a century, we see great prosperity. Our population has increased fifty per cent., and the value of the property in town has doubled, and instead of the twenty paupers reported in 1837, we now report but four. The

amount, as well as the value, of our farm products has greatly increased. We cultivate two hundred acres more than in 1831, and devote to pasture one thousand acres more, while of our twenty thousand acres, only four hundred and twenty-five belong to abandoned farms. Meantime manufactures have been developing far more rapidly still; while, in 1837 the value of all we made was scarce a hundred thousand dollars in one year, of late it has exceeded half a million dollars.

From the vantage ground of this rapid survey of our history, we may well claim that this town is a type of the true New England town. Holden is a type in the circumstances of its founding, settled as it was for the sake of homes, and incorporated for the sake of church. It is a type alike in the almost purely English descent of its first inhabitants, and in the mixture of race and blood which we now see in our factories and schools, but all now as then in spirit true Americans. It is a type in the steady success of its agricultural interests, and in the parallel development and success of its manufacturing. It is a type of the best of New England in the work of school and library and church. We do honor to what is of greatest worth in the life of Massachusetts, New England, and the United States, when we honor Holden to-day. We take pride in the fact that our town has been the nursery of so many worthy men and women. Let me name only those who from the hill-sides of Holden have gone out to labor in the ministry of Christ: Fisher, Cheney, Marshall, Walker, Manning, Winch, Wheeler, Davis, Howe, Richardson, Foster, Damon, Darling, Bigelow, Holbrook, Hubbard, Perry, Brooks, Johnson, Weeks, McLaughlin, Baumann, Prendergast, Murphy, and Hamblen. With such a roll in a single department, compute, if you can, the full sum of our contributions to the work of the nation, the world. Not to speak of other lands, our brothers and sisters, our sons and daughters may be found in a thousand communities in a score of states, and in the success of every one the mother town rejoices to-day.

But Holden has been a home as well as a nursery. It has not exported all its worth. Though change has been so busy

among us that only twenty homesteads are now in the hands of the families which occupied them at our centennial, yet industry and thrift and intelligence and morality and religion have not departed from among us. To-day those who come back to us, as well as we who abide here, recall the names, the faces, the lives of the noble men and women who have steadfastly and well wrought in field and mill, in home and hall, in school and church, to make and keep this grand old town. Each heart recalls a different name, but all are worthy. May we not claim, with honest pride, that Holden is still the home of those not unworthy to be heirs of the honorable past which we recount?

Let us make it so. Holden is still only a foundation. What has been wrought is but preparatory to what shall be wrought. Let us build upon this foundation so well that when the historian of another fifty years, of another hundred and fifty years shall take up his tale, he shall glory in our work as we in the work of our fathers. In the words of Longfellow, with which Dr. Damon closed fifty years ago: "Look not mournfully into the Past. It comes not back again. Wisely improve the Present. It is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy Future, without fear, and with a manly heart."

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ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

Read, page 109, line 13, 1870, for 1842.

Add, page 139,—

CLASS OF 1893.

Martin Joseph Hennessey,	Helen Clara Johnson,
Williamy Josephine Howe,	Thomas Francis McCabe.

Read, page 161, line 24, 1757, for 1857.

Add, page 192, line 8,—1893, Rev. Thomas E. Babb.

Read, page 201, line 29, and page 336, line 8, Lemuel for Lorenzo.

Add, page 261, at close of sketch,—Charles Flagg died September 2d, 1893.

Add, page 293, at close of sketch,—William C. Metcalf died January 6th, 1894.

Add, page 302, line 6,—He led the Sturbridge Company, of Col. Warner's Regiment, at the Lexington Alarm.

Read, 398, line 11, invidious for insidious.

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